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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Are you in favor of holding a weeklong Liberation Day celebration instead of one month?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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LOCAL

Xerox Saipan hosts an open house to introduce its two latest products.

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NATION

Investigators search for a gunman who killed three people near Auburn University. ➤ PAGE 14

FOCUS

Suicides are surging among America's troops, averaging nearly one a day this year. ➤ PAGE 17

TV news, camera help identify burglary suspect. PAGE 2
Five ladies to vie for 2012 Liberation Queen title. PAGE 9

Oct. 1 transition to Social Security eyed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Administration bares details of plans for:
- Social Security buyback
- 'Enhanced' HB 17-226
- Prolonging Fund's lifespan

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos told lawmakers yesterday that they are targeting Oct. 1, 2012, to "fully transition" all active government employees into the U.S. Social Security program, although that will still depend on, among other things, the ongoing negotiations with Social Security, the fate of an "enhanced" version of House Bill 17-226 that the administration is now drafting, and actions on revenue-generating bills to help prolong the NMI Retirement Fund's lifespan.

The administration's pension recovery and survival plan, presented by Inos and Fitial during a two-hour closed-door meeting with lawmakers, also seeks to protect current retirees whose pensions will remain the same.

"The governor and lieutenant governor propose to continue the current pension amount and fund 50 percent through line-item appropriation," press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune.*

He also confirmed the administration's plan to fully transition all active govern-

See TRANSITION on Page 4

Consulate marks 114th PH Independence Day

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

» Event marks last official ceremony before closure

The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan led the commemoration of the 114th anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine Independence last Sunday, the last time it will be able to host the celebration as it closes down this year.

Consulate staff and Filipino community leaders were accompanied by the island's government and business leaders in a simple and solemn ceremony at the Marianas Busi-

See CONSULATE on Page 4

Female Philippine Consulate General personnel hold up the Philippine flag as consulate officer-in-charge Jose Sto. Domingo ties it to the rope of the flagpole in preparation for raising the flag as part of the 114th celebration of the proclamation of Philippine Independence last Sunday at the Marianas Business Plaza grounds. CLARISSA V. DAVID

INTERNAL PROBE ON ICS COMPLETED

ICS allegedly failed to remit collections

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A new case may be filed against a former contractor of the public hospital after an internal probe discovered that it only remitted $69,000 of the $151,000 it had collected.

Saipan Tribune learned that a special committee earlier tasked by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board to probe transactions made by Idaho-based International Consulting Services has referred the matter to the Office of Attorney General for further review and action.

See ICS on Page 4

Q&A: Abe Utu Malae

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Editor's Note: *Abe Utu Malae, the former executive director of Commonwealth Utilities Corp., sat down with* Saipan Tribune *for an exit interview where he bared his personal plans and views on issues he most deeply cares about: public utilities. He will be leaving Saipan today to return to American Samoa.*

Question: You have seen and witnessed the true condition of CUC. What advice do you have for the incoming executive director, the government, and other CUC officials to achieve the goals of an efficient and reliable power, water, and wastewater systems?

Answer: Implement technologies that

See MALAE on Page 4

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Local

TV news, camera help identify burglary suspect

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Witnesses, TV news, and surveillance camera helped investigators identify Derik C. Reyes as the suspect in the burglary at the U.S. Army Reserve Center's troop store in Puerto Rico, Saipan, according to court documents.

The 31-year-old Reyes, who surrendered to the Department of Public Safety on Sunday, was taken to the Superior Court yesterday morning for his initial appearance. His bail was kept at $11,250 cash as the court had earlier imposed.

Preliminary hearing will be on June 20 at 9am. He will be arraigned on June 25 at 9am.

Police began hunting Reyes shortly after Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issued a warrant for his arrest on Monday, June 4, on charges of burglary, theft, and criminal mischief.

The U.S. Army Reserve Center's Army Air Force Exchange Store was burglarized on May 30 and the suspect was caught on surveillance camera. Stolen were a 32-inch Panasonic LCD flat screen TV, two computer monitors, and two Bose sound dock portable systems, all estimated to cost over $1,500.

Later that same day, May 30, police detective Jeffrey I. Norita received a call from a police officer, who said that a witness in the case had surfaced. The witness claimed seeing Reyes in Dandan at 5:20pm that day, driving a Nissan Altima with his brother as passenger.

Reyes allegedly asked the witness if he wants to buy a flat screen TV for only $200. The witness refused, believing the item to be stolen.

The witness claimed that he saw inside Reyes' car four boxes in the back seat, including two that have a picture of a flat screen TV and a sound system.

When the brothers left, the witness noticed that his cell phone was missing and suspected Reyes' brother of stealing it as he had seen the man get into his car as he (witness) was talking to Reyes.

Norita said that he and another detective went to the troop store on May 31 and reviewed the videotape footage of the burglary. Norita said he identified Reyes as the person in the footage. Norita and Reyes both used to work for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

On June 1, police officer Jason Tarkong received a call

See TV on Page 4

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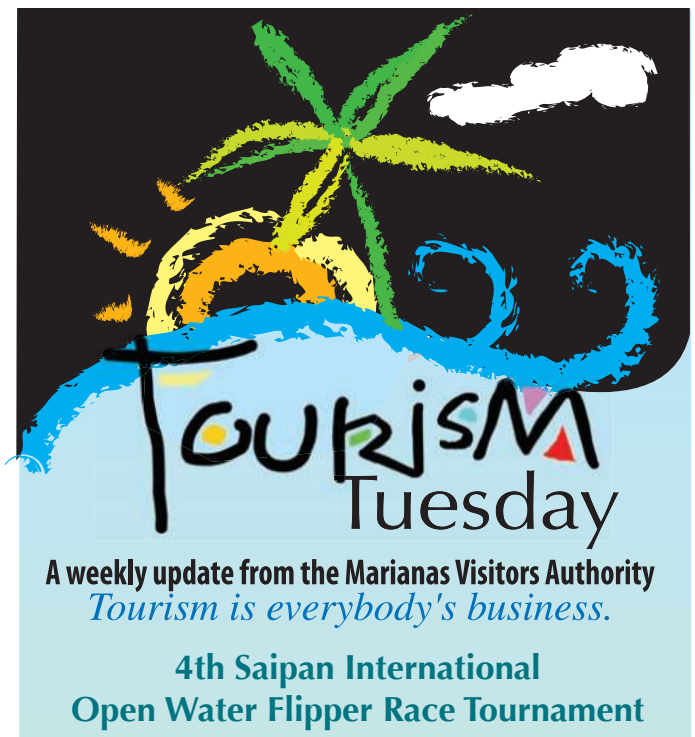

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

4th Saipan International Open Water Flipper Race Tournament June 23, 2012

Explore the underwater wonders of Managaha during the **4th Annual Saipan International Open Water Flipper Race Tournament** on June 23, 2012.

The race features a 1.5 km swim around the island. Over 40 participants from Japan have already confirmed to make the 3-hour flight to Saipan for the annual signature event of the **Marianas Visitors Authority** (MVA).

This unique race requires swimmers to use wetsuits and fins. Snorkels and life jackets are also allowed. Competition age divisions are: 19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60-and-up. Those age 18 and under will be entered into the Junior Division.

Ferries will depart Smiling Cove Marina to Managaha promptly at 5:30 a.m. the morning of the race. The race will begin at 6:30 a.m., followed by an island-style breakfast and awards ceremony on the white sand beaches of Managaha.

The event is also sponsored by the **Community Sports Center Foundation of Japan**. The cost is $25 for Northern Mariana Is. residents with valid I.D. The deadline to register with the MVA is June 22, 2012, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. during the orientation at the American Memorial Park amphitheater on Saipan. Participants must be in good health with snorkeling or diving experience.

For more information or to register, contact the MVA at 1.670.664.3210, or visit the Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com.

Have an upcoming public event? Let the community AND visitors know by posting it on the MVA Calendar of Events at www.mymarianas.com.

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

'CCA closes with honor, integrity'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Calvary Christian Academy principal and administrator Scott Norman has quit his post as private school coalition chief following the announcement that his school will close down in the wake of the island's plummeting economy.

In a visit to his office Friday, Norman cited the worsening economic situation as the sole culprit behind the decision to close down, saying it has gravely impacted the ability of families to send their children to school.

"This decision has not been made lightly. We weighed this decision for days and months and honestly it's not easy," he told *Saipan Tribune*, as he recalled his last week's moment with parents, who were all disheartened by the decision.

Calvary Christian Academy has been in existence for nearly 30 years since being founded in 1983. Throughout the years, it has had sustainable enrollment of between 170 and 200 students each year. But three years ago, Norman said, their enrollment began to dip, going down to 160 enrollees from kindergarten to 12th grade. A year ago, the number further went down to 140. This last school year, it was at 132.

» Norman quits as private school coalition chief

Having only 130 students, Norman said, means 40 less than what they need to successfully operate classes. CCA, he said, is heavily dependent on tuition and educational tax credit donations.

"We have successfully operated for nearly 30 years because of strong enrollment. But the economy continues to plummet and it's affecting parents," he said.

He cited the same factor for the exodus of families and business on island. Also, the continued cuts in the work hours of some parents forced them to transfer their children to public schools, he said.

Norman disclosed that they started discussions about closing the school as early as February but opted to announce the final decision after the school year ends.

"We made our decision in late April but we chose not to say anything to the public and our parents because we wanted our school year to end quietly and calmly and it did," he said.

CCA sent letters to parents on June 2 and then met with private school coalition members and the Board of Education.

"It's an economic decision. We know this is the right time to make the announcement because we want to close with honor and with integrity. We have a good reputation in the community and even though we're closing, all our teachers and staff have been paid. As far as our current liability is concerned, CCA is debt-free," he revealed.

CCA has 12 teachers and three staffers, many of whom are planning to leave the island.

But for Norman's family, "Saipan is still home for us… we will stay."

CCA office remains open indefinitely

Although classes will stop, the CCA administrative office will remain open indefinitely to assist all its students transition to other schools smoothly, Norman said.

In his message to the community, Norman said: "I wish every parent and student the very best. This has been a difficult decision. While you know that you are hurting, it hurts us likewise. We cannot begin to imagine how you must feel. But we will all continue on and be strong in the days ahead. Thank you for all the support you all have shown to CCA for many years."

CCA offered kindergarten classes to 12th grade. It started out as an elementary school from K-6th grade. In 1997, it begun building its junior and senior high school. CCA had its first senior class in 2001.

Retirees to meet on June 13

The Commonwealth Retirees Association is calling all members to a general assembly on Wednesday, June 13, 2012, at 5pm at the American Memorial Park. The CRA has invited Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Senate President Paul A. Manglona, and acting House speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro as guest speakers for the meeting. CRA chair Lorenzo DLG. Cabrera is encouraging members to attend to discuss what other available remedies to explore to preserve the Fund. ***(PR)***

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MALAE

From Page 1

will result in lower energy costs to utility and its customers; technologies that do not depend on oil, which tends to contaminate the soil, water, and air; for the government to spend grant monies and, if that is not possible, to transfer grants to agencies that can; for OIA [Office of Insular Affairs] to assign technically skilled people to help the CNMI execute programs and projects similar to the way U.S. [Environmental Protection Agency] interacts with CUC on the stipulated orders; promote the apprenticeship program for trades workers and technicians, attract young local workers; and continue the close working relationship with Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Trade Institute, and Workforce Investment Agency.

Q: You began with CUC as its deputy executive director before taking over the executive directorship. What would you consider your major accomplishments in both positions?

A: We did not pay any fines to U.S. EPA but tried to work with them no matter how difficult it was, especially under Stipulated Order 2 (oil management); approaching 24/7 water for Saipan; improved reliability of power to customers, especially on Saipan; the Rota power plant is now the most efficient of the five plants (before, it was the least efficient); we hired more and more local workers for power generation to replace nonresident workers; we improved customer service, accounting and financial management of the utility; we had clean audits for 2010 and 2011; we set up a grants and training section that enabled CUC to draw down grant funds within 24 hours in order to pay contractors on time.

Note that bringing on board an excellent team of professionals was critical to reaching objectives and goals. Without that team, we would be retreating. If one more were to leave CUC this year, the utility would collapse.

Also note the biggest improvement in the efficacy of sewer treatment at Agingan and Sadog Tasi plants in the last 10 years.

Q: Many members of the community are asking if you will pursue your political plans in American Samoa?

A: No, I do not plan to run for public office and to become a politician as I have arrived at the sobering conclusion that I do not have the skill set or the stomach for it.

Q: You resigned just as CUC is facing one of its most challenging times (the declaration of a state of emergency). Is it true that you're disappointed with how the central government wants to intervene in CUC, including the awarding of certain contracts?

A: I am more disappointed with my own performance and for not being politically astute enough to more clearly explain CUC's situation (e.g., technical matters) to politicians and others of that ilk.

Imagine eight or so years back when the so-called smart water meters were ordered and arrived to much fanfare. The laymen thought, 'Now all our water problems will be solved.' Guess what, those meters were abject failures. It is only in 2012 where our goal to reach 24/7 water for Saipan is actually possible—by November. Now imagine how much more difficult it is to implement renewable energy or to privatize power generation? Privatization was attempted in 2007 and it failed miserably with a great loss of credibility for the CNMI. It was not until March 2011 when CUC was legally empowered to issue RFPs for renewable energy technologies.

We have a government/business environment where unsuccessful bidders love to protest, adding cost to business transactions with little value for the rate payer.

Q: Can you describe the present state of your professional and personal relationship with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial?

A: It is fine, thanks.

Q: Were you disappointed when the state of emergency was declared again for CUC?

A: No, I am a practical person. Just deal with the hand you are dealt with and do not whine about it.

Q: What were the greatest lessons you gleaned from working at CUC?

A: Be pragmatic always, and move forward. Appreciate your staff from the lowliest worker to the most skilled professional.

TRANSITION

From Page 1

ment employees into Social Security beginning Oct. 1.

That could also be the time when the defined benefit plan will be closed, meaning there will be no more new retiree-members. Existing retirees will continue to get their pensions.

Lawmakers interviewed yesterday had different reactions to the administration's plan, although they shared the same goal of protecting both active government employees and retirees.

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), among other lawmakers, said he is not at all optimistic that the Oct. 1 target will be met, and is a bit disappointed with the lack of details on how the government will be able to meet its over $300 million obligation to the Fund—one of the root causes of the pension agency's crisis.

The government owes the Fund some $320 million in unpaid employer contribution plus interest.

Fitial and Inos met with 19 of 29 members of the Senate and House of Representatives yesterday starting around 2:45pm, four days after the governor placed the Retirement Fund under a state of emergency.

Demapan said the administration is currently exploring two options how to go about transitioning into the Social Security—by way of legislation to be introduced by Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) or by way of direct negotiations with the Social Security Administration.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), one of only four senators present, said he supports waiting for the administration-backed bill rather than overriding the governor's veto of HB 17-226 so that active members will be able to have a "safety net" when they retire, which is through Social Security membership, and at the same time withdraw a portion of their contributions from the Fund.

"I just hope that the administration will be able to give the Legislature a draft copy of that bill soon," he said.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) and other lawmakers said they would like to see the administration's draft bill first before deciding whether to support it or not.

New bill

Demapan said for active employees that are members of the Fund's defined benefit plan, the amount available for withdrawal under the enhanced bill would be whatever is left after the Social Security buyback is paid for.

"That could be 50 percent of more," he said.

This figure will ultimately be determined by whether or not a five-year buyback is successfully attained.

"However, if there will be no buyback and just a clean start in Social Security, then naturally, the DB members stand to withdraw all 100 percent of their contributions, a far better alternative to the current HB 17-226, which caps it at 50 percent," he said.

At the employee's discretion, so much of the amount available for withdrawal may be invested in what would then be the supplemental defined contribution plan, Demapan said.

For DC members, any amount required for the buyback would be paid from the employee's current investment account, he added.

"Essentially, the DC plan would become a voluntary and supplemental plan. In addition, the government's contribution to the DC plan will cease when Social Security membership begins," Demapan added.

The administration is still looking at a five-year buyback, although Sablan earlier said the maximum is six years.

The Social Security contribution will vary between 4 and 6 percent, depending on the years of implementation for the payroll tax cut from the Bush administration.

Bills that need to be moved

Lawmakers and Demapan said among the Fitial administration's proposal is for the Legislature to move several bills and initiatives that will pump more money to the financially troubled Retirement Fund.

These include reducing tax rebate by 20 percent, approving the administration-sponsored legislative initiative to allow existing hotel owners to buy land fee simple, legalizing casino gaming on Saipan, and a legislative initiative on pension obligation bond. The administration also hopes that tourism will improve as a result of Saipan's Air launching on July 1.

Ayuyu said he supports diverting revenues to the Fund, although he has yet to see which of the proposals will be prioritized.

Unfunded liabilities

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) said they agree with the administration's suggestion in removing unfunded liabilities.

Demapan said the Fitial administration recommends that lawmakers should take a look at the existing unfunded liabilities such as the provision on adopting children as beneficiaries.

"Essentially, part of the problem is that currently, there are adopted children receiving pension by way of being a beneficiary. In effect, these minor beneficiaries are receiving pensions without even having to work in government. The governor asked lawmakers to take a closer look at the unfunded liability to determine which should be suspended or removed," he added.

Yesterday's meeting will be followed up by another one at a time mutually convenient for all, Demapan said.

CONSULATE

From Page 1

ness Plaza grounds on June 10.

Sunday's ceremony began with the parade of the Philippine flag by female Consulate personnel composed of Philippine Overseas Labor Office officer-in-charge Julia Fabian, Lauren Arce, Nerisa Anastacio, Hazel Manahan-Mendoza, Antonette Rosario Ocon, and Rowena Tolosa.

Consulate officer-in-charge Jose Sto. Domingo led the raising of the flag, joined by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, and United Filipino Organization vice president Apollo Madriaga.

Other guests were first lady Josie Fitial, Andrea Sablan, Japan Consul and Mrs. Tsutomu Higuchi, businessman Joe Ayuyu, and United Workers Movement president Rabby Syed.

Consulate's Tolosa led the *Panunumpa sa Watawat* [Pledge to the Flag] while Rose Lazaro sang the Philippine national anthem.

The rest of the program saw the reading of messages from Philippine President Benigno Aquino III, Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert Del Rosario, Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. Jose Cuisia Jr., Labor and Employment Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz, and Overseas Workers Welfare Administrator Carmelita Dimzon.

All messages echoed calls for Filipinos throughout the world to take pride in their heritage, to uphold the ideals of freedom and democracy—the very ideals that gave their forebears the strength to fight for the nation's independence—and to bear in mind the great lessons of history.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig, who was unable to join the celebration "as my wife's critical condition continues to require my presence in Manila," wrote a message for Filipinos in the CNMI read by Sto. Domingo.

Macaraig expressed not just gratitude but also optimism that the Filipino people will look forward to their "uncertain future with grace, perseverance, hard work and confidence that our past has prepared us well for our future."

Fitial said in a statement that the people of the CNMI and the Philippines share "so much in common" that the Independence Day celebration is a fitting time to reflect on these commonalities as well as accomplishments.

Fitial also pointed out the imminent closure of the Consulate, the last day of operations for which is on Oct. 31. "Nonetheless, the administration assures everyone that the friendship between the two jurisdictions will remain strong throughout the years to come," he added.

Inos reaffirmed the governor's assurance. "We as a government, as a local community, will extend whatever support and assistance that we'll be able to give to our fellow *kababayans*," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Both Inos and Delegate Sablan acknowledged the significance of Filipinos who have stayed in the CNMI for years and have contributed to the islands' economic growth and development.

"I will make it a point to be here on Oct. 31 when they open the door for the last time," said Sablan, adding that he looks forward to seeing Macaraig in Washington, D.C. where the consul general will be next assigned.

Marianas High School Glee Club's Lady Dominique Canape provided an intermission number before guests were treated to breakfast prepared by the Consulate's culinary arts class, known as the Alternatibong Kagalingan na Angkop sa Pamayanang Pinoy or AKAP Pinoy.

ICS

From Page 1

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham declined to comment on the matter yesterday, saying he could not confirm or deny any investigation about ICS.

"Pending investigations are not appropriate for public comment. Accordingly, I must advise that I cannot, at this time, confirm or deny the existence of an investigation. The reason for this is to allow investigations, when undertaken, to proceed as thoroughly, quietly, and quickly as possible," stated Buckingham in an email response, adding that "each person is presumed innocent and statements about an investigation might create perceptions that are damaging to an individual."

The OAG and the Office of the Public Auditor earlier looked into alleged improper advance payments made by the corporation to ICS, for possible recovery of about $37,000.

The latest internal probe centers on the hospital collections that were received by ICS since it began working on the billing and collection services of the hospital in February this year.

The probe results were reportedly discussed in an executive session at the last board meeting and the board voted to refer the case to the OAG for further review and action.

Saipan Tribune learned that three hospital employees were interviewed by the board committee for possible involvement in the new case.

ICS' sole-source contract was executed on Feb. 28. The OAG declared the contract unlawful because of alleged violations of existing regulations and laws, plus concerns that the company was overcharging CHC.

The ICS contract was later terminated on June 1 due to some discoveries of alleged improper advance payments and other issues.

TV

From Page 2

from a concerned citizen, who claimed to have in his possession one of the stolen items. The concerned citizen identified the suspect as Reyes.

Later that morning, Norita and a detective met the concerned citizen, who revealed that Reyes was trying to sell him speakers. The concerned citizen's friend subsequently bought the speakers for $70.

The concerned citizen, however, was surprised that night when he watched the TV news about the burglary at the troop store. After watching the news, the concerned citizen proceeded to Garapan where he met with the buyer and informed him that the Bose sound dock system was among those reported stolen at the troop store.

The concerned citizen then contacted Tarkong and informed him that he will surrender the item.

US House panel OKs bill on Tinian annex of memorial park

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. House Natural Resources Committee approved by unanimous consent on Thursday Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's (Ind-MP) bill authorizing a Tinian annex of the American Memorial Park on Saipan that will house World War II artifacts and cultural resources and serve as a learning center for residents and visitors.

The next step is taking H.R. 1103 to the House floor for a vote.

The Tinian Annex would interpret important aspects of Tinian's North Field by highlighting historic events related to World War II Marianas Campaign.

At the height of World War II, Tinian's North Field was the busiest airfield in the world, with military planes taking off or landing every 90 seconds. It was the launching pad for the atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, putting a decisive end to the war.

"H.R. 1103 caps costs by building on the existing National Park Service management structure at American Memorial Park, which already provides some interpretive materials for visitors to Tinian," Sablan said.

The bill also anticipates the use of CNMI public lands and funds the Department of Defense has said it will seek to establish a curatorial and historic interpretive center on Tinian.

Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian) hopes that the Tinian annex bill will signed into law by President Barack Obama, citing the importance of preserving island history and its potential to help drive the local economy.

"This is an important bill for Tinian and the CNMI," he said yesterday.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz earlier said the planned annex will give Tinian visitors "a better image and understanding of the jobs that the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions did during World War II.

HR 1103, introduced on March 15, 2011, has 12 cosponsors.

The over 1-year-old bill's approval by the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee comes 11 years after the U.S. National Parks Service conducted a suitability and feasibility study of North Field on Tinian, for inclusion in the National Park System.

Tinian's North Field is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district and has been designated a national historic landmark.

While NPS had determined that North Field was suitable for inclusion as "one of the most significant World War II sites in the Pacific" because atomic bombs were flown from this site, the federal agency said it is not feasible to include it as a unit of the National Park System because of the "military's future long-term needs."

Two-thirds of Tinian lands are being leased by the U.S. Department of Defense. Tinian recently hosted Exercise Geiger Fury, the largest U.S. military training in the CNMI in years, with some 200 U.S. Marines participating out of Iwakuni, Japan.

Sablan, in his bill, said a Tinian Annex to the American Memorial Park on Saipan could provide the opportunity for on- and offsite interpretation of North Field without conflicting military needs.

Trial starts for two accused of lying in passport application

The jury trial of a woman and her brother-in-law accused of lying in a U.S. passport application for her son began in federal court yesterday.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona completed yesterday the selection of the 13 jurors, including an alternate, who will decide the fate of Aifang Ye and her brother-in-law, Zhenyan Cheng.

Ye and Cheng, both Chinese nationals, are represented by attorneys Bruce Berline and David Banes. Assistant U.S. attorney Garth R. Backe is prosecuting the case.

Both prosecution and defense will give their opening statements today.

The indictment charged the defendants with conspiracy to make a false statement in a passport application. In addition, Cheng is charged with false statement in an application for U.S. passport.

Ye allegedly came to Saipan on Sept. 12, 2011, to give birth. Cheng allegedly posed as the father of his brother's child.

Cheng's brother, Xigao Cheng, left for China on Sept. 16, 2011, and has not returned to the CNMI, according to Immigration and Customs Enforcement special agent Ryan K. Faulkner in an affidavit filed in court.

Faulkner stated that they discovered the filing of false statement after a surveillance operation on a car that had dropped off Cheng, Ye, and her infant child at the Saipan Passport Office on March 29, 2012. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Two Judiciary employees learn belligerent control techniques

Two employees of the Office of Adult Probation and Marshal Service Unit of the CNMI Judiciary on Saipan and Rota recently completed a five-day Basic Officer Survival Training Course.

DPS Capt. Pete Leon Guerrero conducted the training for Anthony A. Atalig and Jose P. Mafnas, preparing the candidates in self-defense, the use of pepper-spray, expandable baton, tactical handcuffing, and other techniques of belligerent control.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, who joined the Judiciary in late 2011, is providing oversight of the Marshal Service Division's training curriculum to ensure that it consistent with and at the same level of professionalism as the Department of Public Safety's. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

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MVA upbeat about a bigger budget for promoting the CNMI

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The estimated $6 million to be generated by the newly enacted law that levies a $15 tariff on tourists or other transient occupants of hotel and similar facilities will even out the budget shortfall for the Marianas Visitors Authority, according to managing director Perry Tenorio.

Tenorio said the new $15 fee, which will go toward tourism and environmental programs, will be additional money for the agency in charge of promoting the CNMI to key tourist markets.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera's House Bill 17-290 is now Public Law 17-75 after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed it into law on Monday, making it the first major revenue-generating bill that became law in the 17th Legislature.

Funds derived from the $15 fee will be deposited into a revolving fund administered by the Department of Finance and remitted to MVA for use to build, equip, improve, and maintain projects, agencies, and facilities promoting recreation and tourism.

Tenorio said MVA's budget submission for fiscal year 2013 is about $11.6 million, which would cover the amount that the agency would use to promote the CNMI in Japan, China, Korea, and Russia.

"Our budget's limited when we compare it to other destinations that promote within our source countries. But we try to do the best we can," he added.

The governor's proposed budget for MVA, however, is only half of the agency's submission—some $5.8 million.

"If we're looking at the $5 million [budget] and the $6 million [$15 fee], potentially we'll have that $11 million that we initially requested," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Tenorio, MVA's budget is "re-invested," meaning it will be used to promote the CNMI's travel industry, the "sole economic driver" for the islands.

Given the islands' meager resources, however, Tenorio said there is a "balancing game" to be played to ensure the continued operations of other agencies and entities such as the Commonwealth Health Center, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and the Department of Public Safety—all of which are "very important" for the success of the travel industry.

While he welcomed the arrival of Saipan Air, the CNMI's first national carrier, and the passengers it will bring to the islands, Tenorio also underscored the need to promote the new airline so that potential travelers will know about it and avail the air service it offers.

He expressed excitement about Saipan Air, including Osaka in its route. "We've been absent in that market for quite a while, and people from Osaka will now have a better chance to come here now."

Tenorio is also pleased that the airline will penetrate the Shenyang and Beijing markets in China.

Tinian waitress sues for sexual harassment

»Company manager says plaintiff was never their employee

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A karaoke waitress has filed a sexual harassment lawsuit in federal court against a Tinian company that allegedly coerced her to work as a prostitute.

Dong Jie Song, a Chinese national, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to issue an order stopping Huang Shun Corp. and its officers from engaging in sexual harassment and discrimination. Song is represented in the case by attorney Colin Thompson.

Henie Cruz, assistant general manager for Huang Shun Corp., belied Song's claims, saying she was never their employee.

Cruz said that Song also filed a Labor complaint against the company for alleged unpaid wages but Labor subsequently dismissed the case.

Cruz said that some jobless aliens, including Song, used to hang out at their Popz Bar on Tinian.

According to the complaint, Huang Shun Corp. hired Song as a karaoke waitress and then forced her to work as a prostitute based on her national origin.

Although there were other karaoke waitresses, Song claims that only the Chinese waitresses were forced to work as prostitutes.

Thompson said that Filipino employees were paid bi-weekly, minimum wage, and overtime, while Chinese employees were paid once a month without overtime or minimum wage.

The lawyer said the company also subjected Chinese employees to beatings and verbal abuse.

Thompson said that Song was terminated on Sept. 22, 2009, because she complained and testified to authorities about the abuse.

Song has a pending case in federal court against the same defendant, when she sued it for allegedly failing to pay her overtime.

Cruz insists, however, that Labor had already issued an administrative order dismissing the complaint. Cruz showed a copy of the Labor order issued by Jerry Cody indicating that Song, through counsel Thompson, filed a notice of withdrawal on April 9, 2010.

Thompson stated that Song was withdrawing all claims before Labor and that she would be pursuing those claims in federal court.

Cruz said she processed Song's employment papers with Labor on Sept. 3, 2009, but she withdrew them on Sept. 15, 2009, because the waitress ran off with her boyfriend.

Cruz said they canceled the employment because it would be the company's liability if something happened to her.

She said Song also filed a Labor complaint for alleged unpaid wages, but it turned out that she was not their employee at that time. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

MILESTONES

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Congratulation to Ethan Paolo D. Reyes, top, who was recently promoted to 7th grade, Patricia Louise D. Reyes, bottom, who was promoted to 9th grade; and to sisters Michaela Gaile M. Gatdula, who was promoted to 7th grade, and Sheenah Gwyneth M. Gatdula, who was promoted to 1st grade. Good job and keep up the excellent work! Greetings come from your parents and from Tita Vera and Tito Rod.

Are you 18 years or older?

Have you been providing unpaid services to family members?

Been dependent on the income of another family member but no longer supported by that income and are you unemployed or underemployed and experiencing difficulty obtaining or upgrading employment?

If you answer "Yes" to all of these questions, contact WIA at (670) 664-1704/5, 7 & 8 (Saipan), (670) 433-1700 (Tinian), or (670) 532-1701 (Rota). You may be able to qualify for services as a Displaced Homemaker under WIA's Dislocated Worker Funding Program. All other program eligibility requirements applies.

Dislocated Worker Funding Program

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- **Meet Selective Service Requirements**
- **Have received the required Eligibility for services**
- **Must be 18 years or older**

Category A: General Dislocated Workers. To qualify, an individual must meet the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, form employment;
2. Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation; OR has been employed or attached to the workforce for a duration sufficient to demonstrate to WIA, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a state unemployment compensation law; and
3. Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.

Category B: Plant Closure. To qualify, an individual must meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, plant, facility, or enterprise;
2. Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such family close within 180 days; or
3. For purpose of eligibility to receive services other that training, intensive or supportive services under WIA, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made general announcement that such facility will close.

Category C: Self Employed or Unemployed. To qualify, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Was self employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Saipan: (670) 664-1704/1707/1708/1757 • **Fax:** (670) 664-1710
Tinian: (670) 433-1701 • **Rota:** (670) 532-1701
Email: gov.wia@pticom.com

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration.

Xerox Saipan unveils newest products in open house

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Xerox Saipan opened its doors on June 8 for an open house that welcomed the company's newest staff and introduced its two latest products in the market.

Nola K. Hix was officially introduced as company's new service & solutions executive, joining Mark James, senior customer service engineer, and Jeniseann Cruz-Rideb, administrative assistant.

Hix came aboard the Xerox Saipan family only in February, replacing Faythe Wiseman who retired after 29 years of service last December 2011.

"They're big heels to fill," Hix said in an interview when asked how she feels about taking the place of Wiseman. "She's made her presence here on Saipan, having done it for so long. It's definitely a great opportunity for me and I want to grow with technology."

To prepare for her new career, Hix went through three months of training, including a two-week training in Virginia. Even then, Hix says she is still learning the ins and outs of Xerox and its multitude of products and services. "I'm excited to do more and learn more," Hix told *Saipan Tribune*. "I hope to represent Xerox and move ahead with the future."

According to Hix, Xerox is an established global name that has captured about 80 percent of the local market, including most federal agencies, law firms, government offices, and private banks for its security features, which are only among its many advantages.

Meg Tyquiengco, general manager for Xerox Guam & Micronesia, has nothing but praise for Hix. "She…has high energy, is great with customers, and a fast learner," said Tyquiengco, adding that Hix will receive a lot of technical training from Xerox offices in Guam and Hawaii as she handles her new responsibilities.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Visiting and on-island staff of Xerox pose for a group photo during their open house on Friday. From left to right, David Ariyoshi, office solutions specialist, Hawaii office; Meg Tyquiengco, general manager, Xerox Guam and Micronesia; Xerox Saipan's Jeniseann Cruz-Rideb, administrative assistant; Nola K. Hix, service & solutions executive; and Mark James, senior customer service engineer. Inset photo shows the Xerox WorkCentre 7120, one of the two machines that were introduced at the event.

Latest in 7100 and 7500 series

The open house also highlighted two of Xerox's newest color printers, which have been available on island since last year.

According to Hix, a lot of their customers are "afraid" of having color printers because of cost issues. She noted, though, that Xerox's latest models have security features that give customers control on who could use the full features of the color printer.

"With Xerox, security is definitely at the forefront," said David Ariyoshi, office solutions specialist out of the Hawaii office, who led the presentation of the Xerox® WorkCentre® 7120 and 7545.

Ariyoshi said both models reduce costs, increase business productivity, and allow any company to be competitive and stay focused.

"We're coming up with solutions since half a century ago to make the world simpler and focused on what really matters," he said.

The WorkCentre®7120 can print and copy up to 20ppm, both in color and black and white, has powerful scan and fax capabilities, robust security features, and space-saving footprint. It is also Xerox's entry level of A3 device, which means it can print in 11x17 paper.

The WorkCentre® 7545 is included in the 7500 series, which are among Xerox's more popular devices for its "wide range of speed." Besides its ability to print up to 45 ppm both in color and black and white, this model has a lot of standard and optional features in terms of paper output/finishing, scanning, faxing, and security.

Hix pointed out that Xerox Saipan is "most flexible" in terms of its leasing options.

For her part, Tyquiengco said that while they have a lot of upgraded machines with enhanced functionality and additional features, Xerox still makes it a point to learn about their customers and their workflow to ensure that all their needs are met.

"We try to go after your needs to make your business run better. It's amazing what we can do for you and part of it is just to ask, too. Ask what we can do for you and we'll answer it. We'll give you options," she added.

For more information, visit Xerox Saipan next to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office on the ground floor of Family Building in Garapan, email nola.hix@xerox.com, or call 233-5195.

Worker sues for injuries from fall

A construction worker has filed a lawsuit against his former employer after he was injured when he fell down from a 10-foot ladder at the Rota Health Center.

Jose T. Yumul, through counsel Juan T. Lizama, sued Radiocom Saipan Inc. for negligence and is demanding unspecified damages.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to get comments from Radiocom yesterday.

Lizama stated in the complaint that Yumul was assigned by Radiocom, through a supervisory employee, to erect a high-rise antenna on the roof of Rota Health Center on July 8, 2010.

While climbing up the ladder, Yumul allegedly fell down to the building's concrete rooftop, fracturing his left wrist, arm, and hip. Yumul was required to undegro surgery, Lizama said, and that he continues to receive medical care and treatment to include physical therapy.

"Since the fall, the plaintiff has been unable to work because of the pain that he has suffered from the fall," Lizama said.

Lizama said that prior to climbing the ladder, Radiocom did not give Yumul any protective equipment and did not provide safety training and education in the recognition, avoidance, and prevention of unsafe conditions. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Arts Council eyes sending NMI delegation to Guam fair

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture is hoping to send a delegation of local artists to the 25th Guam Micronesia Island Fair this year.

Organized by the Guam Visitors Bureau, the Guam Micronesia Island Fair is the island's annual signature cultural event showcasing the vibrant cultures of Micronesia.

This year's festivities will be held at the Ypao Beach in Tumon from Oct. 5 to 7.

Arts in Program coordinator Parker Y. Yobei said yesterday that they are looking at sending a maximum of 10 traditional artists from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, and one traditional Chamorro or Carolinian performing group composed of 10 members from Saipan.

"We're trying to invite local artists as early as now so we'll know who's interested and we can solicit from private companies for assistance in sending them to Guam in October to represent the CNMI," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Parker said the council's ability to have these artists flown to the southern neighboring island will depend on the outcome of its solicitations and sponsorship letters, which were sent out beginning last week.

He noted that the solicitations will only have to be for the airfares since GVB takes care of the delegates' lodging, ground transportation, and meals.

He emphasized that only registered traditional artists will be given a chance to go. Other artists interested to join the group will have to pay for their own trip.

For more information, visit the Arts Council office in Capital Hill next to the post office or call 322-9982 or 83. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jun. 12, 2000

Lack of consultation irks PDO

Chief Public Defender Masood Karimipour has lamented the failure of the Legislature and the Office of the Governor to consult the Public Defender's Office and avail of their expertise on issues affecting the criminal justice system. Even the Prison Task Force, he said, has not tapped the PDO in drawing up plans for a new prison just to make sure that lawyers would be able to have easy access with their clients when it is finally completed. "What is the use of spending millions of dollars if the most fundamental constitutional principle that apply to corrections will not be observed?" asked Mr. Karimipour.

Piecemeal legislation for business reforms

The Omnibus Labor and Business Reform bill will be broken down into several pieces of legislation in the Senate for swift action by the nine-member chamber, according to its Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes. After today's scheduled public hearing on Tinian—the last town meeting that began last Thursday on Saipan—members of the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic, Development and Program will immediately sit down and deliberate on the House measure, he said. Offered by Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, the Omnibus bill or HB 12-39 was passed by the lower house in March and has since been awaiting Senate action.

Jun. 12, 2001

Army Corps told: 'Produce PCB documents'

The United States Army Corps of Engineer failed to provide the Northern Marianas with copies of three documents on the remaining projects to be done in Tanapag. The three documents which were released early this month are up for comment. However, Tanapag villagers, the Division of Environmental Quality, the Attorney General's Office, and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library are yet to be provided with copies. Comments for the three documents should be forwarded to the Army Corps in the next 30 days, which is scheduled to lapse on June 30.

Expert says CNMI not a US territory

The defense to an illegal gambling case has re-asserted claims that the Northern Marianas is a non-U.S. territory, contrary to a prosecution argument citing the creation of the CNMI as a United States territory through the Covenant. The defense enlisted a former official under the Marianas Political Status Commission to attest to its contention, in response to the U.S. government's opposition to a motion to dismiss charges against suspected illegal gambling operator Qian Wu or "Queenie." MPSC was the group appointed to negotiate the political status of the CNMI.

Jun. 12, 2002

Tudela supports proposed local funding measures

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela has shown support for a local bill that seeks to increase the local license fees for pachinko and poker machines on the island. In his letter to the Saipan Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, Tudela said that "because local funding for the office of the mayor is very insufficient in the face of the increasing demand for services to the public by my office, I fully support the intent of the bill." In related news, the Saipan Mayor also endorsed several local appropriation bills, in which source of funding are derived from Saipan Local Law 11-2. On H.L.B. No. 13-013, Tudela acknowledged that "this proposed Act would appropriate $60,000 from local poker fees for the installation of stop signs within Precinct 1."

HANMI: Wage proposal to hurt businesses

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands is supporting none of the current proposals to amend the CNMI minimum wage law because not one adequately addresses the business sector's concerns about the ramifications of a wage increase. According to HANMI Chairman Ron Sablan, businesses already hurting from the effects of the Sept. 11 terror attacks would end up closing shop if any of the proposals were implemented as currently drafted. "Many of us could not afford raising wages without resorting to staff downsizing, benefits reduction or even closing down," said Sablan. "In the end, the wage hike would have a negative net effect on everyone, including workers." Currently, there is a bill in U.S. Congress that would raise the CNMI minimum wage to $3.55 per hour, which would then go up by 50 cents every six months until it equals the federal minimum wage.

Five young ladies to vie for 2012 Liberation Queen title

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Mayor Donald Flores, second from right, 2011 Liberation Queen Joni Castro, far right, and Liberation Queen committee chair Tina Pangelinan, far left, join the five young candidates for the 2012 Liberation Queen for a group photo following the pinning ceremony at the Mayor's conference room last Friday. The aspiring Queens are Carmelyn Agulto, Loria Dee Ada Hocog, Maria Angelica Malasarte, Lydee Rose Sablan Pangelinan, and Susan Park.

Five young ladies who will vie for the 2012 Liberation Queen title were officially introduced during the pinning ceremony held at the Saipan Mayor's Office on Friday.

Mayor Donald Flores led the Liberation Queen Committee members in pinning the sashes and welcoming the candidates who are only given about two weeks to sell tickets to the fundraising pageant as part of the weeklong Liberation Day festivities this year.

"Thank you very much for your interest, despite the short amount of time given to you. Wear your sashes at any occasion so they'll know that you're a Liberation candidate. Hustle and give them a big smile," Flores told the candidates.

The Liberation Queen hopefuls are Carmelyn Agulto, Loria Dee Ada Hocog, Maria Angelica Malasarte, Lydee Rose Sablan Pangelinan, and Susan Park.

The 18-year-old Carmelyn Agulto is the second of eight children of Roman and Ellen Agulto of Kannat Tabla. She graduated from Marianas High School last June 4 and plans to study criminal justice at the Northern Marianas College in the fall semester.

Agulto was inspired to sign up for the competition after having known many girls who joined the annual pageant, including outgoing Liberation Queen Joni Castro. She feels "nervous and excited" about the experience.

"I look forward to get to know the other girls and gain confidence in this process," added the ukulele-playing lass.

Loria Dee Hocog is the second of four children of Derek and Rose Hocog who used to organize the Fourth of July celebration. The younger Hocog said she was encouraged by family and friends to join her first pageant.

"I'll go around and ask family and friends to buy my tickets so I can win," said Hocog, 15, an incoming Saipan Southern High School sophomore.

Maria Angelica Malasarte is no stranger to the stage, having dominated the first ever *Pusong Pinoy* Valentine beauty pageant organized by the United Filipino Organization in February, as well as the recently concluded Trash in Fashion Show of the Division of Environmental Quality.

"I believe that my experiences in those two events are both advantageous for me because they've taught me to be confident which I can use in the Liberation Queen contest," she said. "Whether I win or not doesn't matter because it's the experience that counts."

The 15-year-old lass is the eldest of four children of Bong and Malou Malasarte of Susupe. She said she is excited to make new friends through the other candidates.

Lydee Rose Sablan Pangelinan, 18, is the oldest of four children of Eric and Angela Pangelinan and is currently taking up Elementary Education at NMC.

"I consider myself an advocate for the youth and I view being a teacher as my way of giving back to the community," said the Dandan resident who gives credit to her late grandfather, Vicente Juan Pangelinan, as her inspiration in becoming active in community events.

While she and other candidates are pressured to sell tickets for the competition, Pangelinan noted that it's the experience and the advantage of meeting new people that counts.

"We are all winners," said Pangelinan, who also won in the Trash in Fashion Show last year. "I don't consider this as a competition but as a way to meet new people and new friends. With the support of family and friends, I'll do just fine."

Susan Park, the older of two daughters of Jun Ho Park and Chae Eun Shin, said she intends to encourage the Korean community to take on a more active role in participating in the biggest community event on island.

Park said she plans to sell tickets through her father, who has been involved in bringing Korean groups to Saipan for the Fourth of July event and the Korean Music Festival.

"I think I'm the first Korean to compete here and I'll be looking forward to representing the Koreans on Saipan. It's a great opportunity for me and I'd like to show my very best," said the incoming junior of Marianas Baptist Academy born and raised on island.

Joni Castro, 2011 Liberation Queen, wished the candidates good luck and advised them to just enjoy the "great experience" they will have despite the many challenges they would face not just during competition but even after being crowned the winner.

"I gained a lot of experience and became a role model for young girls in the CNMI by carrying this title on and off-island. I may join other pageants in the future but for now, I'll concentrate on my studies. Let's give the other beautiful women in the islands the chance to shine in the Liberation Queen," she said.

Tina Pangelinan, Liberation Queen committee chair, said each of the candidates will initially be given 100 booklets to sell. They can ask for more later on if they want to sell more tickets, she added.

Tickets cost $1 each or $5 per booklet containing six tickets.

Pangelinan noted that the candidates will get 20 percent of their ticket sales "so the more they sell, the higher amount they will receive."

Final dates for counting and coronation will be announced soon, she added. For more information, call 234-6208.

Retardo takes Chefs' Competition at 'Taste'

"Gollai Appan Katnen" (Vegetable Beef Stew), the entry of Mariana Resort's executive chef William Retardo, garnered the judges' nod to win first place in the May 26, 2012, Certified Angus Beef Chefs' Competition at the 14th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden.

This year's theme was Marianas Beef Stew. Retardo and his culinary team bested entries from four other hotels to walk off with $500 cash from the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, other prizes, and bragging rights for the next year. Entries from Hyatt Regency Saipan and Pacific Islands Club Saipan rounded out 2nd and 3rd place, respectively.

Retardo's winning entry was proudly served to patrons at Mariana Resort & Spa 12th Night restaurant later that weekend.

Meanwhile, top honors for the Booth Decorating Competition went to Coral Ocean Point Resort this year, followed by Tropical Chill, Herman's Modern Bakery, and Fiesta Resort & Spa. COP scored highest overall on a list of criteria including overall look of island theme presentation, creativity, originality, use of local and indigenous material, and use of recyclable material.

The Chefs' Competition was also sponsored by Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods and Certified Angus Beef.

"Overall, we are extremely satisfied with this year's Taste of the Marianas celebration and our turnout," said Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "'Taste' is like a good recipe; every time we put it on we keep the basic ingredients, but look for new spices or twists to enhance the flavor. We're very grateful to our sponsors, our vendors, and the community for making this year's event a winner." ***(MVA)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Statewide Independent Living Council

"Yes I Can!"

P.O. BOX 501521, SAIPAN, MP 95950: TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 FAX: (670) 322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2012 Third General Membership Meeting on Thursday, June 14, 2012 at the Charley's Cabaret, PIC from 9:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. **Roll Call**
II. **Adoption of Agenda**
III. **Review and adoption of March 08, 2012 Minutes**
IV. **Reports**
- OVR Director
- SILC Chairman
- CIL Director

V. **Old Business**
- Recommendations of 2012 April Public Forums
- Review membership composition
- SILC Resource Plan

VI. **New Business**
- Trainings and other developments on independent living activities
- SILC Congress updates and State Plans
- Inter-Agency Presentation

VII. **Consumer Forum**
VIII. **Announcements/Miscellaneous**
IX. **Adjournment**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Elvira Seman (Council Liaison) two days in advance for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Stephen Dutro
SILC Chairperson

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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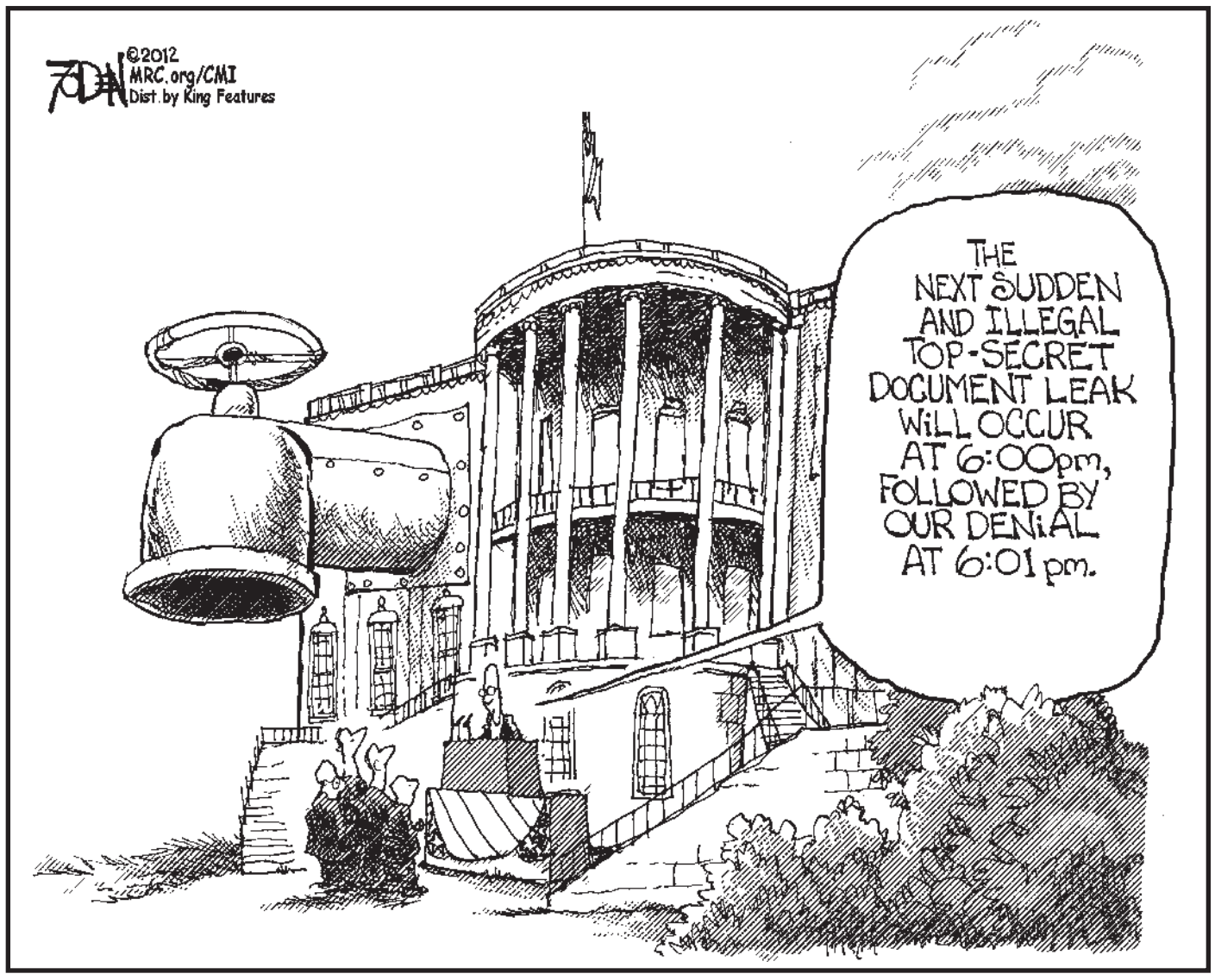
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THE NEXT SUDDEN AND ILLEGAL TOP-SECRET DOCUMENT LEAK WILL OCCUR AT 6:00pm, FOLLOWED BY OUR DENIAL AT 6:01 pm.

EDITORIAL

Pinoy interdependence

We celebrate today's Philippine Independence Day, and the emerging Pinoy interdependence.

The people in the archipelago, formerly named the Western Islands prior to getting identified with España's Felipe, has added a few kernels of rice into the global stew.

The *tinikling,* its national dance, gracefully performed in various speed to many audiences, is a simple understanding that in the stormy weather of the life, typical in typhoon tattered tropics, when birds tend to be caught in the whirlwind of clashing branches of bamboos, one has the option to dance. One foot in, then out, as the bamboo poles knock on its other, keeps the legs nimble and the mind ever ready for the awe and wonder of the unknown and unexpected.

The *Bahay Kubo,* a national song, once decried in the nationalism of my youth as a sign of low esteem and apologetic subservience, along with *Pobreng Alindahaw,* the impoverished firefly of the Visayas, and the descriptive confession of "being poorly born on the top of the mountains" of *Montañosa,* and the Luzon parental caution of not straying too far to "far Zamboanga," reflect an Asian streak of moderation and an affinity to simple living.

"My nipa hut, is very small," sang in childhood with the abundant greens in the yard, echoes affirmations of simple gifts among the kind folks of Appalachia, and the eco-utopian communities in the Pacific Northwest. In a time of flagrant consumption as the symbol of affluence, the virtue of simple living is the universal call of the hour.

But more than resiliency in the turbulent waters of contemporary life, moderation in lifestyle, and simplicity in the sea of wants and amplified consumptive desires, the Pinoy has a trait envied by many. Around the world, they are known for their fiesta spirit, innate in a volcanic region that spawned a culture of discontinuous eruptions abetted by the Iberian *que sera sera* (what will be, will be), the Muslim *anshallah* (the way-life-is, willing), and its indigenous affirmation of *bathala na* (inclusive of all the above!). The inner fireworks seem to spark just naturally.

Whether performing in Xi'an, or being the *maitre'd* in Dubai, priesting in Alaska, or prospecting in Peru, nursing in NYC, or teaching in Ghana, the Pinoy is creating an indelible lifestyle. To their tribe, we doff our sun visors this day!

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Dong Bei Trails: Quandian

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

We traveled close to the North Korean border (my SVES social students would be familiar with this territory since they lived off the fear, which I had to continually allay, that the *Xianjuren*—North Koreans—are directing their missiles at Guam) to catch the sight and scent of lavenders reportedly flourishing on the slopes of Huangyi Shan in Quandian. The city is south of the famed Changbai Shan that separates Dong Bei from the *Chao Xian* (NoKor). The mountain towns along the way turned out to be picturesque and rustic.

When we first came to China as a tourist in 1989, shortly after the Tiananmen incident, we were on the tail end of what was a double tier currency system. Foreigners spent ¥uan (along with the Japanese "yen" and the Korean "won," the term simply means, "round money" in Hanja of the Ming Dynasty), while the locals used renminbi (people's money). We shopped in Friendship Stores where Champs-Élysées brands of decadent but luxuriant products and real local silk clothes were available, though off-limits to the Spartan and gray proletariat. Deng Xiao Ping abolished the practice.

The trip to Quandian came as a shocking confrontation of what is evidently a return to old policy. Checking in to one of the local Chinese hotels, the proprietor stammered in his rarely used English his refusal to accommodate, that proximity to North Korea and the presence of backpacking foreigners now free to roam in China, the security forces gathered all the hoteliers the week before to tell them that not only are all customers to be checked for their identification papers, foreigners were also to be directed to designated hotels.

We had no objections to the practice. After all, gouging Japanese tourists in the Philippines in the '80s, and the visiting golfers on Saipan the last two decades, I am only too familiar to practices that give preferential treatment to locals while charging visitors captive rates. Still, with China leading the harmonious symphony in foreign policy when the rest of the West is belligerent, we were surprised by this turn of events.

What would have been an easy $10-20 hotel accommodation became $50-75 upon moving to the prescribed lodges. To visiting foreigners, this rate is par for the course, if not actually inexpensive compared to the bills at four/five-star hotels. For those of us resident workers getting just slightly better remuneration than the local labor force, the rate was exorbitant.

Looking like a suntanned farmer from Nanning, I have no problem blending with the local population, but that was not the case when we had to negotiate for transport to the forest reserve (taxis might have smelled a foreign rat for they were reluctant to be flagged down!). Nevertheless, Mother Nature in this not-quite-developed part of the country is nothing but astounding. The verdant late spring and early summer was resplendent with abundant sun and surprisingly fresh air.

Benxi, not too far west of Quandian, was a sleepy coal-mining town in the '50s until it started making steel and iron bars for the whole country. It manufactures the steel frames of the tanks that China exports to counter the U.S. Sherman, as well as China's version of the Humvee. Smoke stacks are as plentiful as the trees. I was told that all the street sewer covers in the country are railed from this city, which now boasts new northern and southern high-rise communities. Urban growth in China expands to the outlying farms and suburbs, or, as in the case of Beijing and the other major cities, built satellite cities.

This area's coal mines reminded us of Appalachia and Pittsburg in the '60s and '70s. The chimneys spewing burnt carbon fossil residue made dark skies out of the blue in the winter when we last came to the region, even with all the trees churning out enough oxygen to counter the carbon overload. Not this time.

Railway travel is still the mainstay of domestic transport even as the country rapidly builds its interprovincial highway. But the rail from Shenyang to Quandian is a milk train that occasionally waits on the side for the freight line to pass before proceeding. Passengers take a back seat to industrial and commercial inventory.

While the rapid line only took four hours the last time I went directly to Dandong, this time it took eight. The route, however, took me through scenic mountains, and being a *Meiguoren* (American) without the elongated nose who only spoke *Yingwen* (English), I was a distinct foreign novelty. The common folks in the train were hospitable and friendly, though communication by body language lasted no more than 10 minutes.

I have since learned to pay the additional cost of a berth when traveling by rail, which allows one to go horizontal, and with a book or a laptop, one can be solitary for the whole duration of the trip.

This time, I was neighbor to two precocious 10-year-olds eager to practice their English. I had my laptop handy with my own "flash cards" and it did not take long before I had a class of six expanding their vocabulary. With the relieved Mamas beaming appreciative smiles, I did not mind at all.

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Facebook isn't looking out for your children

By LANE FILLER
Newsday

Lane Filler is a member of the Newsday *editorial board. His email address is lane.filler@newsday.com.*

It shouldn't matter whether Facebook thinks it's OK for a young child to have a page on its site. Studies, in fact, show that kids have pages no matter what Facebook's policy is. That's why the recent news that the company may let children younger than 13 have accounts, possibly with some sort of parental permissions, is so clearly irrelevant.

Corporations are largely conscienceless creations designed to extract profit at any cost. I've worked for at least three companies that would have gladly harvested my organs during off-site "trust building exercises" if the bosses could have figured out how to keep me slaving away sans kidneys.

Wise consumers don't let oil-change companies dictate how often we lube up or believe greeting-card companies when they tell us "Grandparent-in-Law Day" is an important occasion. Wise male consumers do obey florists who arbitrarily dictate days on which we must buy our wives flowers, but that's a whole different issue.

But we don't, or shouldn't, base child-rearing decisions on the decrees of for-profit corporations. This is particularly true with a company caught in a panic spiral because its initial public offering has been about as successful as a new edition of "The Iliad" translated from the original Greek by the cast of "Swamp People." Although, really, that might sell better than the other versions.

A study released by Consumer Reports last June showed that regardless of Facebook's rules—which ban kids younger than 13—7.5 million of the 20 million children with their own Facebook pages were 12 or younger, and 5 million were under the age of 10. Then, last fall, a survey by Microsoft Research showed that of the 12-year-olds who have accounts, 82 percent of their parents knew, and 76 percent of the parents helped the kids sign up.

That's screwed up, regardless of what Facebook says.

The reason we restrict the actions of kids is that children, even the really smart ones, are stupid. They don't understand cause and effect. They don't grasp the concept of "forever" as it relates to online posts. They don't realize there is a very small but dedicated group of predators in the world that wants to hurt them. And kids lack impulse control.

Need proof kids are consequence challenged? Think of every dangerous, poorly plotted and utterly insane thing you did between the ages of 8 and 25. Your children's decision-making process is just as dysfunctional. The last thing you want for your kids is a forum where they're free to express their every impulse, and a permanent record of those thoughts and feelings is kept.

It would be fine for mom and dad to let their preteens use their Facebook pages to communicate with family members and, when appropriate, friends, through the friends' parents' accounts. The kids wouldn't feel comfortable posting things they don't want you to see, which is good. You don't want them posting anything they don't want you to see. The downside of this is that your children would be able to enjoy all the really ill and evil dreck that makes you and your friends ROTFLYAO. That's probably why some parents help or allow young kids to get their own pages: Not doing so would inconvenience mom and dad.

Don't get your oil changed every 3,000 miles, regardless of what Happy Lube suggests, unless the carmaker's instructions agree. Don't buy cards on "Cousin Day," even if Card-A-Rama says you should. You've got too many cousins to keep up with, and you dislike most of them. And don't let your young children have a social networking page, even if Facebook says it's a good move. Facebook said its stock at $38 a share was a good move, and look how that turned out.

Summertime and the camps are lawyered up

By DAN AKST
Newsday

Daniel Akst is a columnist for Newsday *and a member of the newspaper's editorial board.*

While authorities are still trying to figure out if the man who says he killed Etan Patz actually did so, the rest of us are still living with the legacy of paranoia from this heartbreaking case.

The disappearance of 6-year-old Etan on his way to school 33 years ago in Manhattan isn't the only reason American parents are so overprotective. The media have played a big role in obscuring the fact that American society is extraordinarily safe for children, who are mainly at risk from family members and family automobiles. Stranger abduction is extremely rare.

Yet society remains suffused with paranoia about the young, a paranoia reinforced in public institutions by our profound litigiousness. I hadn't fully appreciated just how far these trends had gone until I got the paperwork for the engineering summer camp my son will attend at a major university we'll call Sprawling U. The program is for rising high school juniors and seniors, although my son managed to get in as a rising sophomore.

I'm not bragging; the point is that, aside from my guy, most of the "kids" in this program are old enough to drive. And few are likely to be juvenile delinquents; for Pete's sake, these are young people motivated to spend part of their summer studying engineering!

Yet the program's policies make it sound more like Sing Sing than Sprawling. Resident assistants "will escort the students to both breakfast and dinner each day. ... Students are restricted from being on any floor or wing other than the one assigned without an accompanying Summer Conference Resident Assistant. ... Students will not be discharged to parents in waiting cars. ... Students will be escorted between the residence halls and other areas of the campus. ... Students are never to leave the residence hall without signing out and may not leave unless accompanied by a staff member. Students found outside the building without supervision will be dismissed ..."

Students must wear their ID card on a lanyard at all times when out and about. But it's not as if there will be no fun; "age appropriate" movies are promised, although of course they'll be anything but. And campers can count on attending, since "during the nightly social/recreation period, Conference Housing students will not be permitted to remain in their rooms."

So, are all summer programs organized by a retired warden from Alcatraz? Well, no. It happens that my young Edison has a twin, a literary man who will attend the summer writing program at an arty little college in New England. Its paperwork was a model of enlightenment by comparison. It does lay out some policies, but sensibly concludes: "The kinds of students who come to the Young Writers Workshop typically possess a sense of personal responsibility and cooperative goodwill that minimizes the need to prescribe or enforce rules."

To some extent, the two programs are almost comically representative of what the British writer and physicist C.P. Snow called the Two Cultures—science and the humanities—and the black gulf that separates them. Arty College takes the trouble to specifically bar incense, for example, which is not something many of the budding engineers will think to bring to Sprawling U.

Each of these programs expresses a different side of American culture, yet both had lawyers working overtime on ludicrous releases from liability. Sprawling requires me to attest that "I am fully aware of the actual and potential risks of personal injury (including serious injury and death) inherent in any activity." And while the attorneys for Arty College may greet us in Birkenstocks, they also demand not just a release but that I "fully and forever agree to indemnify" the place against any claims arising from my kid's participation.

Ah, summer. If only Huck Finn could see us now.

The end of China envy?

By RICH LOWRY
King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

China-envying *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman likes to muse about how wonderful it would be if the United States could be like China for a day.

The scandal engulfing former rising star Bo Xilai, the cashiered Communist Party boss of the city of Chongqing, suggests how this magical day might go down.

A popular governor who rose to prominence based on his anti-corruption campaign while illicitly enriching himself would fall from grace. His wife would be accused of murdering a foreign businessman. His security chief, whom he relied upon to run an extensive spying operation on potential foes, would seek asylum at a foreign consulate, fearing for his life. State and federal security forces would have a standoff outside the consulate.

The entire nation would become obsessed with the case, but the government would prevent anyone from searching the Internet for information about it. Everyone would assume that the government would control the political fallout by arranging a nice show trial for the disgraced governor.

Such would be the joys of China-for-a-Day, according to the Bo Xilai script. The Bo affair doesn't truly tell us anything new about China. But the lurid details—the body of the allegedly murdered British businessman cremated without an autopsy; Bo's privileged son partying as a student at Oxford and Harvard—might jolt some China-enviers out of their feverish delusions about the glories of the "Beijing Model."

It's not just Thomas Friedman. Andy Stern, the former president of the Service Employees International Union, wrote an op-ed in *The Wall Street Journal* titled "China's Superior Economic Model." He cited Bo—and his "people-oriented development in Chongqing"—as one of the impressive assets of "Team China." President Barack Obama has used China's public investments as a prod for adopting similar policies at home and said longingly of one of China's technological advances, "That used to be us."

The Bo scandal shows the Chinese system to be as thoroughly rotten as one would expect of a kleptocratic police state. What is unusual is only that it wasn't kept under wraps.

If China's economic rise has been something to behold during the past three decades, it is not a tribute to the technocratic proficiency of China's rulers. In China's mixed system, it is the genuinely private companies that are more economically efficient, according to The World Bank.

China's economic miracle may well stall out before we get the opportunity to emulate its supposed wonders. China can't convert agricultural workers into manufacturing workers and suppress domestic consumption in the cause of creating an export-driven juggernaut forever. The World Bank report recommends that China move to the next stage of development by "reforming and restructuring state enterprises and banks, developing the private sector, promoting competition, and deepening reforms in the land, labor, and financial markets." In other words, it should learn from the U.S.

The existence of China envy is a testament to the allure of 9 percent GDP growth coupled with a few fashionable policies like support for high-speed rail and solar energy. On this basis, Friedman calls China's rulers a "reasonably enlightened group of people." Their spectacular repression, greed and Sopranos-like power struggles notwithstanding.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Tony P. hits the nail on the head

Despite being old enough to be most reader's grandfather, Tony Pellegrino has more life and energy and sheer force of honest basic character in his little pinky than all the political yahoo Barbecue Bud Boys up on Capitol Hill put together.

His current column is dead on right about the CNMI's fall from grace. Tony makes his weekly observations in a clear, straight-to-the point style that gets his point across quickly, instead of falling in love with his own words and trying to impress readers. And hit the nail on the head this week with his summary of the past few decades. We need to reread his letter a few times and really let it sink in just how embarrassingly far we've fallen in such a short time, how lazy and unethical our society has become, and we've allowed a long line of complete idiots with no understanding of the real outside world to run our island into the ground while lining their own pockets.

Right on Tony for tellin' it like it is without trying to make readers feel you're more intelligent than them by peppering your weekly prose with metaphors and verbiage. Sad to say, the local people who need to hear your words most probably have not the patience, or brain power, to even finish reading your column.

Chris West
Los Angeles, Calif.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph in the morning becoming light.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲87 ° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲92	▼75
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲55	▼44
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲82	▼62
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87	▼81
Honolulu	Sunny	▲83	▼73
London	Showers	▲60	▼49
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲79	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼81
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲61	▼45
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
New York	Showers	▲73	▼68
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼66
Paris	Showers	▲64	▼49
Pusan	Showers	▲75	▼65
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲79	▼62
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲70	▼56
San Francisco	Sunny	▲73	▼55
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲79	▼65
Tokyo	Showers	▲72	▼65
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲80	▼73

Yesterday's Satellite Image

PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging low-level winds are coupling with divergent upper-level winds to create isolated thunderstorms north of Koror and Yap or north of a line from 12N130E to 14N140E and also over Iwo To island north of a line from 23N140E to 25N146E. An upper-level low is centered southwest of Minami Tori Shima at 20N152E. Isolated thunderstorms are occurring near this system between 14N and 21N from 152E to 156E. A surface trough reaches southeastward from near Mindanao through 5N130E to end at EQ140E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen near this feature west of Koror or west of a line from 8N133E to 4N134E. Another surface trough runs northward from 2N150E through a low-level circulation centered west of Chuuk near 7N149E to end east of Saipan at 15N151E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found near the circulation within 100 miles of 8N148E. Isolated thunderstorms are present farther southwest between 2N and 6N from 143E to 147E. Converging southeast winds east of the circulation and trough are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Chuuk within 70 miles of a line from 12N150E to EQ155E. A broad area of trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro but over Tarawa and Butaritari atolls south of a line from 6N155E to 2N161E to 5N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:58 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
9:50 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
3:19 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
9:03 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:20 AM	12:47 PM
Wednesday	12:58 AM	1:35 PM
Thursday	1:36 AM	2:23 PM
Friday	2:15 AM	3:11 PM
Saturday	2:56 AM	4:01 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)**			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 5	UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)				**SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)**			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 5	UA5064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 5	UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 5 via ROP
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**			
DL287	6:05am	8:50am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)				**GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	8:05am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	UA190/5077	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
UA5076/147	4:35pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5076	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; UA: United; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Rescue loans for Spain's banks buys Europe time

WASHINGTON (AP)—A $125 billion plan to rescue Spain's banks won't solve Europe's debt crisis or ease the pain of double-digit unemployment across the continent.

But it is likely to calm financial markets and buy time for European policymakers to work with other weak economies threatening the stability of the 17 countries that use the euro.

Europe still has plenty of troubles to address in the three other countries that have already received financial help â(EURO)" Greece, Portugal and Ireland. In Greece, voters could elect a government next week that will refuse to live up to the terms of the country's $170 billion rescue package. Portugal is combating a toxic combination of high debt and 15 percent unemployment. Ireland is cleaning up a banking mess a lot like Spain's. Then there's Italy, the eurozone's third-largest economy, where government debt is piling up as the economy stagnates.

"We still have some pretty fundamental problems to solve," says Nicolas Veron, senior fellow at the Bruegel think tank in Brusssels. "We need more radical solutions than this one."

Spain on Saturday asked finance ministers for the 17 countries that use the euro for money to rescue its banks, which have been crushed under the weight of bad real estate loans. The finance ministers responded by offering up to $125 billion in loans that the Spanish government could funnel to banks.

The plan eases an immediate crisis in the euro's fourth-largest economy. The deterioration of Spain's banks and the pressing need for a rescue was threatening to bankrupt its government. That would likely cause far more pain for Europe than the financial messes in Greece, Portugal and Ireland.

"This move brings into sharp relief the enormous amount of money that will be needed to cordon off the rest of the euro zone periphery in the event of a Greek meltdown," says Eswar Prasad, professor of trade policy at Cornell University.

AP

A man rests outside a bank advertising their bank rates and pension plans in Madrid Sunday June 10, 2012.

Investors are worried about what will happen when Greek voters go to the polls June 17.

If Greece reneges on the strict austerity measures that come with its rescue package, it could be forced to abandon the euro. Greece's departure from the Eurozone would likely cause financial chaos across Europe: Greek debts would go from being denominated in sturdy euros to being denominated in Greek drachmas of dubious value.

Worse, a Greek exit from the euro would raise fears that another European country such Portugal or Italy might be next.

"A significant part of this (bailout for Spanish banks) has to do with ring-fencing Greece," says Jacob Kirkegaard, a research fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington. "This is enough to prevent added market contagion."

But analysts said even bolder action may be needed from some key European governments and institutions that have been leery of committing too much to the effort.

Germany, worried that it will get stuck with the bill for any ambitious schemes, has rejected several ideas for easing the crisis. It has been reluctant to ease the terms of previous bailouts to reduce the pain of government spending cuts on Greece, Portugal and Ireland. And it has resisted calls for the creation of joint "eurobonds" that would raise money and spread responsibility for repayment across the euro countries.

Likewise, the European Central Bank has been reluctant to intervene to jolt the eurozone economy. Last week, it passed up an opportunity to reduce interest rates. And it has been reluctant to flood the economy with money to push down interest rates the way the U.S. Federal Reserve has.

Group: Global airline profits thin this year

BEIJING (AP)—Squeezed by high oil prices, the world airline industry's profit will be slim this year and could be wiped out if Europe tumbles into recession, the global aviation trade group said Monday.

The International Air Transport Association called for governments to resolve a dispute over European carbon charges on airlines and to avoid tax and regulatory changes it said might hamper industry growth.

Worldwide, airlines should make total profits this year of $3 billion on revenues of $631 billion - a 0.5 percent margin, the IATA said in an industry outlook released as it opened its annual general meeting in Beijing.

"The industry's profitability is balancing on a knife edge," said the IATA's executive director, Tony Tyler.

The "most immediate risk" is Europe's debt crisis, which could drag down profits if it triggers a recession, Tyler said. He said a 1 percent drop in airline revenue could turn the small forecast global profit into a $3 billion loss.

Asian carriers are forecast to post total profits of $2 billion this year, while U.S. and Middle Eastern airlines also should make money, the IATA said. It said European carriers were expected to post a $1.1 billion loss.

High oil prices are a key reason for weak profits, Tyler said.

The group represents 240 airlines including the world's major carriers.

The latest outlook is based on a forecast that oil prices will average $110 a barrel this year. IATA says fuel accounts for 33 percent of carriers' costs, up from 13-14 percent a decade ago.

The profit forecast represents a decline of more than 50 percent from last year's $7.9 billion. That was down by a similar margin from 2010's $15.8 billion profit.

Also Monday, IATA appealed to governments to head off a mounting conflict over European carbon charges on airlines by negotiating a global system to regulate the industry's emissions of climate-changing gases.

China, the United States, India, Russia and others oppose the European charges, which took effect Jan. 1 and require carriers to buy permits to emit carbon. China and India have prohibited their airlines from cooperating and Beijing has blocked purchases of European aircraft by its carriers, stirring fears of further economic retaliation.

"We strongly oppose this unilateral action," said Wang Changshun, chairman of Air China Ltd., one of China's three main state-owned carriers, at a news conference with Tyler.

Experimental diabetes drugs offer patients hope

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Some experimental diabetes treatments in late testing offer patients hope of better controlling their blood sugar and weight and preventing dangerously low blood sugar, all big challenges for millions of diabetics.

Results from studies of several new diabetes medicines and insulin products, just announced at the premiere U.S. conference for diabetes specialists, likewise hold the promise of billions in annual revenue for drugmakers that have dominated the diabetes market and for others breaking into it. They have been presenting their data at the American Diabetes Association conference, held in Philadelphia from last Friday through Monday.

Until the last decade, relatively few companies made treatments for diabetes, a chronic condition in which the body either does not make enough insulin to break down the sugar in foods or uses insulin inefficiently.

Now many more drugmakers have jumped in, as the number of American diabetes patients is about 26 million and growing fast, and there are tens of millions more in Western Europe, China and India.

That's because the global obesity epidemic has caused a similar explosion of diabetes cases. About 95 percent are Type 2 diabetes, usually related to being overweight and sedentary. Type 2, once called adult-onset diabetes, now is also being diagnosed in adolescents, just like insulin-dependent Type 1 diabetes, which used to be called juvenile diabetes.

Both types can cause early death or devastating complications—blindness, amputations, stroke, kidney disease, heart disease and more—when too-high blood sugar steadily damages organs and blood vessels.

Roughly $200 billion a year is spent on treating diabetes and indirect costs such as missed work and premature death, according to the diabetes association.

Last year, U.S. spending on diabetes medicines among insured patients for the first time exceeded spending on cholesterol drugs, according to Express Scripts, a top prescription benefit manager.

"We expect the key diabetes brands and markets to exhibit sustainable high-single-digit growth," reaching about $54 billion a year by 2020, Jefferies & Company analyst Jeffrey Holford recently wrote to investors. He cited an aging Western population, more health care use and adoption of Western diets in emerging countries, and increased use of new treatments and combination therapies.

Apple expected to show fresh software, new Macs

NEW YORK (AP)—Apple CEO Tim Cook is expected to show off new iPhone software, updated Mac computers and provide more details on future releases of Mac software when he kicks off the company's annual conference for software developers on Monday.

The announcement of new software for the iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch has been confirmed by banners that appeared at the Moscone conference center in San Francisco on Friday, reading "iOS 6." It's not much of a surprise. Apple has used its Worldwide Developers Conference as an opportunity to announce new iPhone software for the past few years.

What's not known is what new features will come with iOS 6, or when it will be released to consumers. Usually, the new software becomes available for download around the time a new iPhone model appears. Apple-watchers expect the next version of the iPhone, the iPhone 5, to appear this fall, about a year after the launch of the 4S model.

In 2010, Apple demonstrated the new iPhone 4 at the WWDC, but analysts don't expect the company to show off a phone model this year.

With the launch of iOS 5 last year, Apple added many features already found in competing smartphone software. It also added the "Siri" virtual assistant feature, which interprets voice commands and talks back to the user.

This year, there are fewer "catch up" features to add, so Apple watchers expect more modest improvements. Some speculate that Facebook could become more tightly integrated, in much the same way that Apple baked Twitter functions into its software last year. That could make it easier to post Facebook status updates from within Apple's apps.

On the Mac software side, there are fewer unknowns. Apple already demonstrated most of the features of OS X 10.8 "Mountain Lion" in February and said it will go on sale late this summer. Developers are already able to download a version of the software. It narrows the gap between the PC and phone software packages, making Mac personal computers work more like iPhones.

Microsoft Corp., Apple's chief competitor in PC software, is on a parallel course. It's set to release Windows 8 later this year, bringing the look and user interface of Windows Phone to PCs.

Nation

Police: 3 killed in shooting near Auburn U.

AUBURN, Ala. (AP)—Investigators were searching Sunday for a gunman who killed three people—including two former Auburn University football players—and wounded three others at a pool party near campus after several men got in a fight over a woman, authorities and witnesses said.

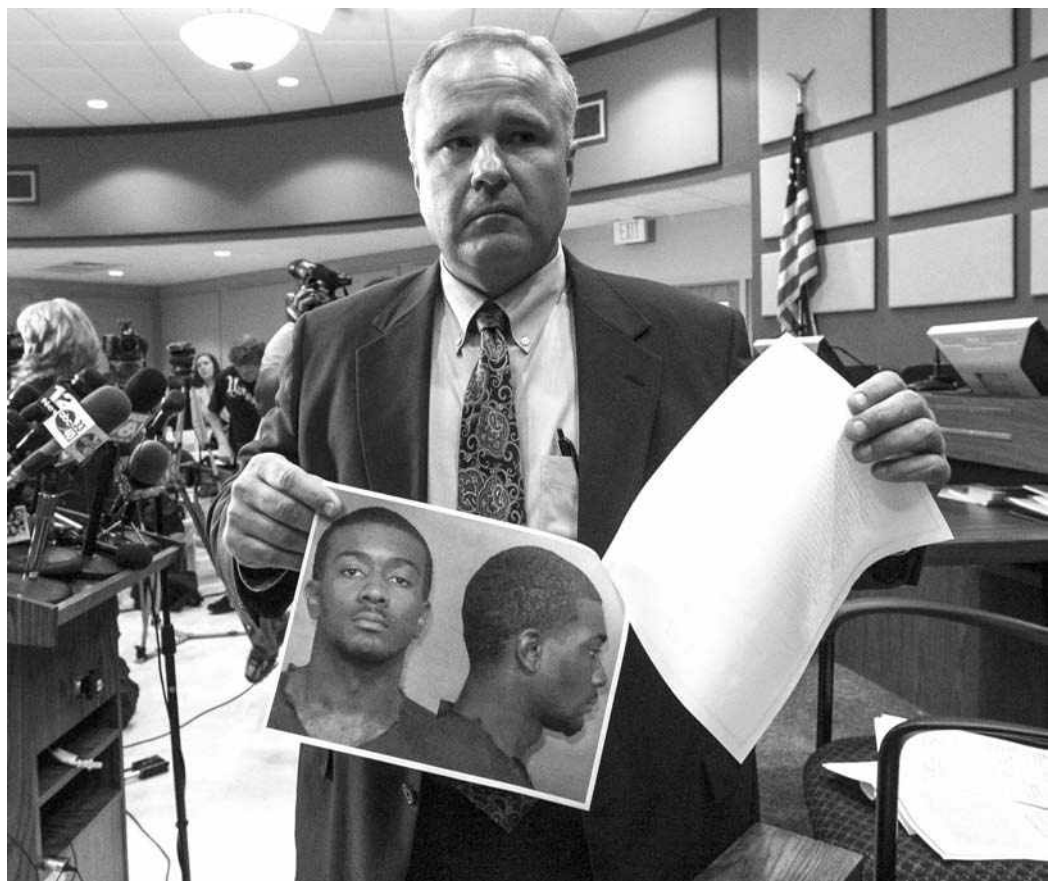
One of the wounded was shot in the head and critically hurt. Another was a current player, Eric Mack.

Desmonte Leonard opened fire at the Saturday night party at an apartment complex near the university, Auburn Police Chief Tommy Dawson said. Federal marshals and police were searching for Leonard, who faces three counts of capital murder.

Slain were Edward Christian, who had not been playing because of a back injury, and Ladarious Phillips, who had previously quit playing football. The other person killed was 20-year-old Demario Pitts.

Officials also said Xavier Moss and John Robertson were wounded. Robertson had been shot in the head and was in critical condition; Moss was released from the hospital.

Police emphasized that the shootings didn't appear to have anything to do with some of the victims being former or current players on the university's powerhouse football team, which won the national championship in 2010.



AP

Auburn Police Chief Tommy Dawson shows headshots of suspect Desmonte Leonard, 22, of Montgomery, during a news conference, Sunday, June 10, 2012, in Auburn, Ala.

"The only connection that the Auburn football team has to this is they are victims of a brutal shooting. Sometimes the young men get a bad rap, I feel like, but they are the victims today," Dawson said.

Police urged the suspect to turn himself in. Authorities are also searching for two other persons of interest.

Dawson said he did not know why the party was being held or what sparked the fight.

"Them being football players really has nothing to do with this. They're victims of a shooting," Dawson said.

Turquorius Vines, 23, said he was at the pool party Saturday evening at the University Heights apartments with one of his friend, Pitts. He said he and his friend were approached by two other men who started arguing with them over a woman.

Vines said he punched one of the men, while Pitts hit both of the men over the head with a bottle. Either one or both of the two men then started shooting, he said. He said Pitts was shot and killed, while two others also were hit by gunfire. Vines said he had never met the men he was arguing with.

"It's like I lost a lung," Vines said of losing his friend. "I don't know how I'm going to survive this."

Several emergency vehicles converged overnight around the University Heights apartment complex where many students live. The building was swathed in yellow police tape.

It appeared that the shooting happened in an archway near the apartment complex information center, near the edge of the parking lot. Five uniformed officers guarded the area, which was sealed off with crime scene tape, and a handful of crime scene investigators were at work.

Mack, the wounded player, is a junior offensive lineman from St. Matthews, S.C. He played in five games last season. Coach Gene Chizik said Mack was expected to make a full recovery.

Christian is an offensive lineman who was out last season while dealing with a back injury. Phillips was a backup fullback. Chizik said in April that Phillips had decided to give up football.

A person who answered the phone at the home of Phillips' mother declined comment and said his family was too distraught to comment.

"Nobody should ever have to endure such unimaginable grief, and we will love and support the victims' families during this terribly difficult time," Chizik said. "We have a lot of people on our football team that are hurting right now and we're going to do everything we can to help them get through this."

Undoing health law could have messy ripple effects

WASHINGTON (AP)—It sounds like a silver lining. Even if the Supreme Court overturns President Barack Obama's health care law, employers can keep offering popular coverage for the young adult children of their workers.

But here's the catch: The parents' taxes would go up.

That's only one of the messy potential ripple effects when the Supreme Court delivers its verdict on the Affordable Care Act this month. The law affects most major components of the U.S. health care system in its effort to extend coverage to millions of uninsured people.

Because the legislation is so complicated, an orderly unwinding would prove difficult if it were overturned entirely or in part.

Better Medicare prescription benefits, currently saving hundreds of dollars for older people with high drug costs, would be suspended. Ditto for preventive care with no co-payments, now available to retirees and working families alike.

Partially overturning the law could leave hospitals, insurers and other service providers on the hook for tax increases and spending cuts without the law's promise of more paying customers to offset losses.

If the law is upheld, other kinds of complications could result.

The nation is so divided that states led by Republicans are largely unprepared to carry out critical requirements such as creating insurance markets. Things may not settle down.

"At the end of the day, I don't think any of the major players in the health insurance industry or the provider community really wants to see the whole thing overturned," said Christine Ferguson, a health policy expert who was commissioner of public health in Massachusetts when Mitt Romney was governor.

"Even though this is not the most ideal solution, at least it is moving us forward, and it does infuse some money into the system for coverage," said Ferguson, now at George Washington University. As the GOP presidential candidate, Romney has pledged to wipe Obama's law off the books. But he defends his Massachusetts law that served as a prototype for Obama's.

While it's unclear how the justices will rule, oral arguments did not go well for the Obama administration. The central issue is whether the government can require individuals to have health insurance and fine them if they don't.

Efforts to relax pot rules gaining momentum in US

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Catharine Leach is married and has two boys, age 2 and 8. She has a good job with a federal contractor and smokes pot most every day.

While she worries that her public support for marijuana decriminalization and legalization could cost her a job or bring the police to her door, the 30-year-old Warwick resident said she was tired of feeling like a criminal for using a drug that she said is far less harmful than the glass or wine or can of beer enjoyed by so many others after a long day's work. Like others around the nation working to relax penalties for possession of pot, she decided to stop hiding and speak out.

"I'm done being afraid," she said. "People in this country are finally coming around and seeing that putting someone in jail for this doesn't make sense. It's just a changing of the time."

Once consigned to the political fringe, marijuana policy is appearing on legislative agendas around the country thanks to an energized base of supporters and an increasingly open-minded public. Lawmakers from Rhode Island to Colorado are mulling medical marijuana programs, pot dispensaries, decriminalization and even legalization. Seventeen states and the District of Columbia now authorize medical marijuana and 14, including neighboring Connecticut and Massachusetts, have rolled back criminal penalties for possession of small amounts of pot.

Rhode Island is poised to become the 15th state to decriminalize marijuana possession. The state's General Assembly passed legislation last week that would eliminate the threat of big fines or even jail time for the possession of an ounce or less of pot. Instead, adults caught with small amounts of marijuana would face a $150 civil fine. Police would confiscate the marijuana, but the incident would not appear on a person's criminal record.

Minors caught with pot would also have to complete a drug awareness program and community service.

Gov. Lincoln Chafee has said he is inclined to sign the legislation.

One of the bill's sponsors, state Rep. John Edwards of Tiverton, has introduced similar proposals in past years but the idea always sputtered in committee. Each year, though, he got more co-sponsors, and the bill passed the House this year 50-24. The state Senate passed it 28-6.

ACROSS THE NATION

Hundreds evacuated as Colo., NM fires spread

LAPORTE, Colo. (AP)—Firefighters on Sunday were fighting wildfires that have spread quickly in parched forests in Colorado and New Mexico, forcing hundreds of people from their homes and the evacuation of wolves from a sanctuary. The Colorado fire, burning in a mountainous area about 15 miles west of Fort Collins, grew to 22 square miles within about a day of being reported and has destroyed or damaged 18 structures. Strong winds, meanwhile, grounded aircraft fighting a 40-square-mile wildfire near the mountain community of Ruidoso in southern New Mexico. Crews were working to build a fire line around the blaze, which started Friday and has damaged or destroyed 36 structures.

4 dead in Calif. home attack, suspect wounded

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Authorities sought a motive Sunday after an assailant entered a Sacramento home and shot four people to death, police said. The suspect also was wounded and in critical condition. Officers who responded to reports of gunfire at the home Saturday night found three men and one woman dead, police spokeswoman Officer Michelle Gigante said. A fifth person, whom investigators identified as a suspect, was wounded, apparently by someone in the home who confronted him, Gigante said.

Orthodox NYC counselor on trial in sex abuse case

NEW YORK (AP)—The abuse went on for nearly three years before the schoolgirl told anyone that her spiritual adviser was molesting her while he was supposed to be mentoring her about her religion, authorities said. But in Brooklyn's ultra-orthodox Jewish community, 53-year-old Nechemya Weberman has been embraced and defended as wrongly accused. The girl has been called a slut and a troublemaker, her family threatened and spat at on the street. The rallying around Weberman, who goes on trial this month, and ostracizing of his accuser and her family reflects long-held beliefs in this insular community that problems should be dealt with from within and that elders have far more authority than the young. It also brought to light allegations that the district attorney was too cozy with powerful rabbis, a charge he vehemently denies.

Asia

US, Pakistan beginning to look more like enemies

AP

In this Friday, April 6, 2012 file photo, a supporter of Pakistani religious group Jamaat-ud-Dawwa stands on a representation of a U. S. flag before set it on fire during a protest rally in Karachi, Pakistan.

ISLAMABAD (AP)—You know a friendship has gone sour when you start making mean jokes about your friend in front of his most bitter nemesis.

So it was a bad sign this week when the U.S. defense secretary joshed in front of an audience of Indians about how Washington kept Pakistan in the dark about the raid that killed al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden a year ago.

"They didn't know about our operation. That was the whole idea," Leon Panetta said with a chuckle at a Q&A session after a speech in New Delhi, raising laughs from the audience. The Bin Laden raid by U.S. commandos in a Pakistani town infuriated Islamabad because it had no advance notice, and it was seen by Pakistan's powerful military as a humiliation.

The U.S. and Pakistan are starting to look more like enemies than allies, threatening the U.S. fight against Taliban and al-Qaida militants based in the country and efforts to stabilize neighboring Afghanistan before American troops withdraw.

Long plagued by frustration and mistrust, the relationship has plunged to its lowest level since the 9/11 attacks forced the countries into a tight but awkward embrace over a decade ago. The U.S. has lost its patience with Pakistan and taken the gloves off to make its anger clear.

"It has taken on attributes and characteristics now of a near adversarial relationship, even though neither side wants it to be that way," said Maleeha Lodhi, who was serving as Pakistan's ambassador to the U.S. at the time of the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks and was key in hurriedly putting together the two countries' alliance.

The latest irritant is Pakistan's refusal to end its six-month blockade of NATO troop supplies meant for Afghanistan. Even if that issue is resolved, however, the relationship may be on an irreversible downward slide. The main source of U.S. anger is Pakistan's unwillingness to go after militants using its territory to launch attacks against American troops in Afghanistan.

On the Pakistani side, officials are fed up with Washington's constant demands for more without addressing Islamabad's concerns or sufficiently appreciating the country's sacrifice. Pakistan has lost thousands of troops fighting a domestic Taliban insurgency fueled partly by resentment of the alliance with the U.S.

Panetta's comments about the bin Laden raid may have been unscripted, but others he made while in India and Afghanistan seemed calculated to step up pressure on Pakistan. He stressed Washington's strong relationship with India—which Islamabad considers its main, historic enemy—and defended unpopular American drone attacks in Pakistan.

He also said in unusually sharp terms that the U.S. was running out of patience with Islamabad's failure to go after the Pakistan-based Haqqani network, considered the most dangerous militant group fighting in Afghanistan.

Many analysts believe Pakistan is reluctant to target the Haqqanis and other Afghan militants based on its soil because they could be useful allies in Afghanistan after foreign forces withdraw, especially in countering the influence of India.

Pakistan lashed out at Panetta on Saturday and denied the country was providing safe havens for militants.

Panetta "is oversimplifying some of the very complex issues we are dealing with in our efforts against extremism and terrorism," the Foreign Ministry said. "We strongly believe that such statements are misplaced and unhelpful in bringing about peace and stability in the region."

A senior U.S. official described the relationship as "the worst it has ever been."

"This is from Washington's point of view and from Pakistan's point of view, and even among the real well-wishers on both sides who are appalled and befuddled that we can't get past all of this and move beyond," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

PH stunned by boxing hero's loss

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Filipinos expressed shock and some wept Sunday over Manny Pacquiao's defeat in a Las Vegas bout with undefeated American boxer Timothy Bradley.

Pacquiao's loss by split decision at the MGM Grand arena ended his impressive seven-year unbeaten run that turned him into a wealthy sporting superstar and a national hero in impoverished Philippines.

Large numbers of Filipinos booed and yelled "Manny was cheated" after watching the bout on large TVs erected in public parks and gymnasiums throughout the Philippines. Some broke into tears in disbelief.

Government volunteer librarian Gina Tubo says she wept because she'd thought Pacquiao won after landing more punches. She said she felt disoriented because she had become too used to Pacquiao ending triumphant in more than a dozen fights.

"He's a national and a world hero," Tubo told The Associated Press by telephone from suburban Marikina city in the Philippine capital, her voice cracking. "He inspires people and entertains them away from their troubles so this is really shocking to all of us."

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who watched the bout in Las Vegas, hoped Pacquiao would win a rematch. "For me, what happened here in Vegas was highway robbery," he told Philippine radio network DZBB by telephone.

The Philippine government told Pacquiao his proud country would stand by him in future fights.

The Philippine military showed the bout as a morale-booster to thousands of soldiers. It congratulated Bradley but praised Pacquiao for his grit, adding "Manny will remain and will always be our champion."

State of emergency declared for western Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's president has declared a state of emergency in a western state where sectarian tensions between Buddhists and Muslims have unleashed deadly violence. He warned that if the situation spun out of control, it could jeopardize the democratic reforms he has been instituting since taking office last year.

It is the first time Thein Sein has invoked the measure since becoming president. A state of emergency effectively allows the military to take over administrative functions for Rakhine State, a coastal region that borders Bangladesh.

The move follows rioting on Friday in two Rakhine areas that state media say left at least seven people dead and 17 wounded, and saw hundreds of houses burned down. The unrest spread on Saturday and Sunday, though order was said to have been restored in the areas shaken by Friday's violence.

In a nine-minute speech televised nationally Sunday night, Thein Sein said that the violence in Rakhine State was fanned by dissatisfaction harbored by different religious and ethnic groups, hatred and the desire for vengeance.

"If this endless anarchic vengeance and deadly acts continue, there is the danger of them spreading to other parts and being overwhelmed by subversive influences," he said. "If that happens, it can severely affect peace and tranquility and our nascent democratic reforms and the development of the country."

The accounts in state media blamed Friday's rioting in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships on 1,000 "terrorists," but residents' accounts made clear they were Muslims. The unrest seemed to be a reaction to the June 3 lynching of 10 Muslims by a crowd of 300 Buddhists. The lynch mob was apparently provoked by leaflets discussing the rape and murder last month of a Buddhist girl, allegedly by three Muslim men.

The violence reflects long-standing tensions in Rakhine state between Buddhist residents and Muslims, many of whom are considered to be illegal settlers from neighboring Bangladesh. Myanmar's government does not recognize the Muslims in the area, who term themselves Rohingyas, as one of the country's national minorities. Although the basic problem is a local one, there is fear that the trouble could spread elsewhere because the split also runs along religious lines.

"I would like to call upon the people, political parties, religious leaders and the media to join hands with the government with a sense of duty, to help restore peace and stability and to prevent further escalation of violence," Thein Sein said.

Shops in the state capital, Sittwe, were closed and the busy port city was unusually quiet Sunday, according to residents, though some neighborhoods experienced trouble.

"Some houses were set on fire by the Muslims today in Sittwe and four Rakhine villagers arrived at the hospital with knife wounds," said Nu Nu Tha, a Sittwe resident contacted by phone.

"Almost all shops are closed and people live in fear that the Muslims might attack the Rakhine population. I am very scared and I have sent my children to Yangon by plane," Nu Nu Tha said.

Army troops had been deployed Friday in Maungdaw and Buthidaung to help police keep order, and security officials were reported to have fired shots to quell the violence. Curfews were also imposed.

In contrast to the previous military regime, Thein Sein's government has been relatively open in releasing timely information about the recent trouble. Under the former ruling junta, such incidents usually went unreported or were referred to only in brief, cryptic fashion.

ASIA BRIEFS

Powerful earthquake hits off northeastern Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A powerful earthquake has struck off northeastern Taiwan, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau says the quake registered at magnitude 6.5. It says the tremor was felt throughout the island. The earthquake struck Sunday morning at sea, about 42 miles (70 kilometers) east of the Taiwanese county of Ilan. Ilan is about 90 miles (150 kilometers) southeast of the capital, Taipei. Earthquakes frequently rattle Taiwan, but most are minor and cause little or no damage. However, a magnitude-7.6 earthquake in central Taiwan in 1999 killed more than 2,300 people.

Reformist Aussie bishop: Quitting was my decision

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—An Australian bishop who ruffled the Vatican's feathers by calling for reform says his decision to retire early is his alone and is unrelated to his differences with Catholic Church leaders. Pope Benedict XVI last week accepted Bishop Patrick Power's resignation five years before the mandatory retirement age of 75. The auxiliary bishop of the Australian capital Canberra said Sunday he has long planned to retire at 70 and will continue to work as a priest. Power plans to encourage Catholics "who are disillusioned with the church ... to stay with it and continue to be a voice for reform." He says the clerical sex abuse crisis is arguably the church's most serious challenge in 500 years. He says issues such as priestly celibacy must be discussed.

World

Chief Syrian opposition body elects new leader

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's main opposition group on Sunday picked a secular Kurd as its new leader after criticism that the former head was too autocratic and the group was becoming dominated by Islamists.

The opposition, hobbled by disorganization and infighting, is trying to pull together and appear more inclusive by choosing a member of an ethnic minority.

The opposition's disarray has frustrated Western powers eager to dislodge Syrian President Bashar Assad but unwilling or unable to send in their own forces to do it. There has been some willingness to support the rebels with funds and arms, but the lack of a cohesive front or a single address has hampered the efforts as the bloodshed intensifies.

On Sunday, government forces shelled rebel-held cities and villages, killing at least 38 people in the rebellious Homs district in central Syria, activists said. It was impossible to independently confirm the death toll.

The choice of Abdulbaset Sieda as head of the Syrian National Council is aimed at achieving several goals for the main opposition group.

-Under outgoing leader Burhan Ghalioun, criticism mounted that the group was dominated by Islamists, especially the Muslim Brotherhood. Sieda is a secular.

-Sieda is also a Kurd, and his selection could be an incentive for Syria's minority Kurds to take a more active role in the uprising. Up to now they have stayed mostly on the sidelines.

-Selection of a member of a minority group could counter criticism that under Ghalioun, the umbrella organization was too autocratic. Sieda is seen as a neutral consensus figure.

AP

This citizen journalism image provided by Shaam News Network SNN, taken on Friday, June 8, 2012 purports to show a girl holding the Syrian revolutionary flag during a demonstration in the eastern city of Deir el-Zour, Syria.

"This is clearly an opportunity and there is clearly a need for a change," said Peter Harling of the Brussels-based International Crisis Group think tank.

However, key problems remain.

The SNC has only tenuous ties to the Free Syrian Army, which is doing most of the actual fighting against Assad's forces, and is itself little more than a disorganized collection of local militias.

Sieda, 56, an expert on ancient civilizations, is a longtime exile who lives in Sweden, like his predecessor, who is based in Paris. Activists actually doing the fighting in Syria worry that if they succeed in deposing Assad, the exiles will swoop in and take over.

The SNC must also gain the confidence of the international community, which is searching for effective ways to hasten the departure of Assad.

British Foreign Secretary William Hague said Sunday that he could not rule out military intervention in Syria, saying the situation there is beginning to resemble the violence that gripped Bosnia in the 1990s.

Hague told Sky News television that time was "clearly running short" to implement international envoy Kofi Annan's cease-fire plan. It was supposed to take effect on April 12 but never took hold.

Hague said Syria was "on the edge of collapse or of a sectarian civil war so I don't think we can rule anything out."

Sieda was elected unanimously for a three-month term as president at an SNC meeting in Istanbul that stretched into early hours of Sunday.

Ghalioun presided over the council since its formation last August, but some Syrian dissidents pulled out after he repeatedly renewed his three-month term as leader. They accused him of being a liberal face for the Muslim Brotherhood, whom dissidents view as the real force behind the opposition council in exile.

Sieda said his priority would be to expand and restructure the council to include more opposition figures, particularly from Syria's religious minorities.

"We are now in the process of repairing the relationship between the SNC and the forces working inside Syria so that we may reach common ground among us," Sieda said.

Many of Syria's estimated 2.5 million Kurds—more than 10 percent of the population—join Christians, Alawites and other key minorities whose fear for the future if Assad's secular regime collapses has deterred them from joining the uprising.

Sieda said he is in touch with the main Kurdish umbrella group, the Kurdish National Council. Its delegates walked out of an SNC gathering in March after the SNC failed to back its demands for Kurdish rights in a post-Assad state.

Mohieddine Sheik Ali, the Aleppo-based head of the Syrian Kurdish Democratic Unity Party, indicated Sieda has a tough task winning over minds. "We want real partnership as Kurdish parties. We do not want to be an appendix in any opposition group," he said.

As the opposition was reorganizing, the death toll mounted with Syrian troops fighting to regain control of rebel-held areas scattered through the country.

The highest was in the central city of Homs and surrounding towns, where 17 people were killed, said Rami Abdul-Rahman of the Syrian Observatory of Human Rights. He said at least 16 Syrian forces were also killed in clashes throughout the country.

In the aftermath on clash in Homs, amateur video showed chaos in an underground medical treatment site where wounded and men lay strewn. Activists lifted one man to show the flesh ripped apart from the back of his leg, a dead boy and another man close to death.

The town of Qusair was a main target Sunday, where at least six people were killed.

"The mortars came down on Qusair by the dozens," said Abu al-Hoda, a Qusair-based activist. He said women and children have been huddled for days in basements of apartment buildings, too fearful to come out.

Regime forces also shelled the southern city of Daraa and nearby villages, said Abdul-Rahman.

The military unleashed a new round of heavy shelling and sent reinforcements to a mountainous area near the coastal city of Latakia, where hundreds of rebels have set up a base and fierce fighting has raged in recent days.

Military: Syria chemical stocks threaten Israel

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's deputy military chief is warning that Syria has the biggest chemical weapons stocks in the world and missiles and rockets that can reach any point in Israel.

Maj. Gen. Yair Naveh also said if Syria had the chance, it would "treat us the same way it treats its own people."

Israel radio stations carried Naveh's remarks on Monday. He made them the night before at a ceremony in Jerusalem commemorating fallen soldiers.

Syrian activists estimate more than 13,000 people have died since the uprising in Syria erupted 15 months ago.

Israel has been watching the carnage in neighboring Syria with increasing concern.

The two countries have fought major wars and Syria backs violent anti-Israel groups. Multiple attempts to reach a peace deal have failed.

Official: Egypt's Mubarak in critical condition

CAIRO (AP)—Hosni Mubarak is slipping in and out of consciousness eight days after the ousted Egyptian leader was sent to prison to begin serving a life sentence, a security official said on Sunday.

With rumors of the former president's death spreading rapidly, authorities granted his wife, former first lady Suzanne Mubarak, and the couple's two daughters-in-law special permission to visit him in Cairo's Torah prison early that morning.

"The former president's health is in decline, but now it's stable in its deteriorated state," the official said. Since his wife's visit, Mubarak has suffered from an irregular heartbeat and required assistance in breathing.

The official told The Associated Press that the former president now lives only on liquids and yogurt. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Mubarak's health is reported to have collapsed since his June 2 conviction for failing to stop the killing of protesters during the uprising that overthrew him in 2011. His life sentence saw him transferred immediately to a prison hospital, instead of the military hospital and other facilities where he had been held since his April 2011 arrest.

Authorities have turned down several requests by Mubarak's family to transfer the ousted president back to a military facility, the official said.

On Saturday Mubarak's wife was denied access to the Intensive Care Unit where he was placed, as authorities limit family visitations to one a month.

According to security officials quoted by al-Masry al-Youm daily, Mrs. Mubarak lashed out at wardens for not giving her husband permission to seek treatment outside the prison. "You will be responsible for his death," she allegedly said.

Mubarak's two sons Alaa and Gamal are also being held. They were acquitted on June 2 of corruption charges, but still face separate charges of insider trading.

On Saturday, Egypt's state run news agency MENA quoted officials as saying that Mubarak is at risk of stroke, quoting a medical team's report.

Other media reports said that his lawyer Farid al-Deeb informed him that he will soon be transferred back to a military facility in the Cairo suburb of Maadi.

In his last public appearance on June 2, the bedridden Mubarak sat stoned-faced in the courtroom cage. However, officials said that he broke into tears when he learnt that he will be transferred to Torah prison.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran warns Moscow nuclear talks could stall

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—An Iranian negotiator warned Sunday that this month's talks in Moscow over Iran's nuclear program could stall because of faulty preparation. Ali Bagheri, Iran's No. 2 nuclear negotiator, said advance talks were agreed on to clarify the agenda for the Moscow round, set for June 18-19. The official IRNA news agency said Bagheri made the complaint in a letter to senior EU official Helga Schmid on Sunday. Concerned that Iran might be aiming toward nuclear weapons, the West wants to stop Iran's 20 percent uranium enrichment program. Western experts say it would not be difficult to upgrade 20 percent enriched uranium to weapons grade. Iran insists its nuclear program is peaceful. In exchange for discussing enrichment, Iran wants the West to ease sanctions.

Al-Qaida incites Tunisians against ruling party

CAIRO (AP)—Al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri called on the Tunisian people to rise up against the country's Islamist ruling party for accepting a constitution not based on Islamic Shariah law, according to a recording released Sunday. In an audio recording posted on militant forums, al-Zawahri said the leaders of the Ennahda party, a moderate Islamist group that formed a new government after October elections, are violating Islam's teachings by accepting a constitution that does not consider Shariah the sole source for legislation. Al-Zawahri said Ennahda favors "an Islam accepted by the U.S. State Department, the EU and the sheikdoms of the Gulf, an Islam that accepts gambling clubs and nude beaches."

Helicopter crash: Kenya govt minister among 6 dead

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Kenya's internal security minister was killed with five other people when the police helicopter they were traveling in crashed in a forest near Kenya's capital, officials said. An anti-corruption crusader said the incident calls into question the government's procurement of airplanes and helicopters for its security forces. Internal Security Minister George Saitoti and his deputy, Orwa Ojode, were among the six killed in the Sunday crash, Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka said. Two pilots and two bodyguards also died in the crash, officials said. Kenya's government declared three days of mourning for the crash victims.

Focus

WASHINGTON (AP)—Suicides are surging among America's troops, averaging nearly one a day this year—the fastest pace in the nation's decade of war.

SEATTLE TIMES/MCT

Perry McClellan, left, and Judith Gorman put a flagpole in front of their home to commemorate their son's life and service, June 21, 2010, in Langley, Washington. A talented artist, he helped his parents create a new veterans center on Whidbey Island before taking his life in May.

Suicides are surging among US troops

By ROBERT BURNS
AP National Security Writer

The 154 suicides for active-duty troops in the first 155 days of the year far outdistance the U.S. forces killed in action in Afghanistan—about 50 percent more—according to Pentagon statistics obtained by The Associated Press.

The numbers reflect a military burdened with wartime demands from Iraq and Afghanistan that have taken a greater toll than foreseen a decade ago. The military also is struggling with increased sexual assaults, alcohol abuse, domestic violence and other misbehavior.

Because suicides had leveled off in 2010 and 2011, this year's upswing has caught some officials by surprise.

AP impact

The reasons for the increase are not fully understood. Among explanations, studies have pointed to combat exposure, post-traumatic stress, misuse of prescription medications and personal financial problems. Army data suggest soldiers with multiple combat tours are at greater risk of committing suicide, although a substantial proportion of Army suicides are committed by soldiers who never deployed.

The unpopular war in Afghanistan is winding down with the last combat troops scheduled to leave at the end of 2014. But this year has seen record numbers of soldiers being killed by Afghan troops, and there also have been several scandals involving U.S. troop misconduct.

The 2012 active-duty suicide total of 154 through June 3 compares to 130 in the same period last year, an 18 percent increase. And it's more than the 136.2 suicides that the Pentagon had projected for this period based on the trend from 2001-2011. This year's January-May total is up 25 percent from two years ago, and it is 16 percent ahead of the pace for 2009, which ended with the highest yearly total thus far.

Suicide totals have exceeded U.S. combat deaths in Afghanistan in earlier periods, including for the full years 2008 and 2009.

The suicide pattern varies over the course of a year, but in each of the past five years the trend through May was a reliable predictor for the full year, according to a chart based on figures provided by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner.

The numbers are rising among the 1.4 million active-duty military personnel despite years of effort to encourage troops to seek help with mental health problems. Many in the military believe that going for help is seen as a sign of weakness and thus a potential threat to advancement.

Kim Ruocco, widow of Marine Maj. John Ruocco, a helicopter pilot who hanged himself in 2005 between Iraq deployments, said he was unable to bring himself to go for help.

"He was so afraid of how people would view him once he went for help," she said in an interview at her home in suburban Boston. "He thought that people would think he was weak, that people would think he was just trying to get out of redeploying or trying to get out of service, or that he just couldn't hack it—when, in reality, he was sick. He had suffered injury in combat and he had also suffered from depression and let it go untreated for years. And because of that, he's dead today."

Ruocco is currently director of suicide prevention programs for the military support organization Tragedy Assistance Programs, or TAPS. She joined the group after her husband's suicide, and she organized its first program focused on support for families of suicide victims.

Jackie Garrick, head of a newly established Defense Suicide Prevention Office at the Pentagon, said in an interview Thursday that the suicide numbers this year are troubling.

"We are very concerned at this point that we are seeing a high number of suicides at a point in time where we were expecting to see a lower number of suicides," she said, adding that the weak U.S. economy may be confounding preventive efforts even as the pace of military deployments eases.

Garrick said experts are still struggling to understand suicidal behavior.

"What makes one person become suicidal and another not is truly an unknown," she said.

Dr. Stephen N. Xenakis, a retired Army brigadier general and a practicing psychiatrist, said the suicides reflect the level of tension as the U.S. eases out of Afghanistan though violence continues.

"It's a sign in general of the stress the Army has been under over the 10 years of war," he said in an interview. "We've seen before that these signs show up even more dramatically when the fighting seems to go down and the Army is returning to garrison."

But Xenakis said he worries that many senior military officers do not grasp the nature of the suicide problem.

A glaring example of that became public when a senior Army general recently told soldiers considering suicide to "act like an adult."

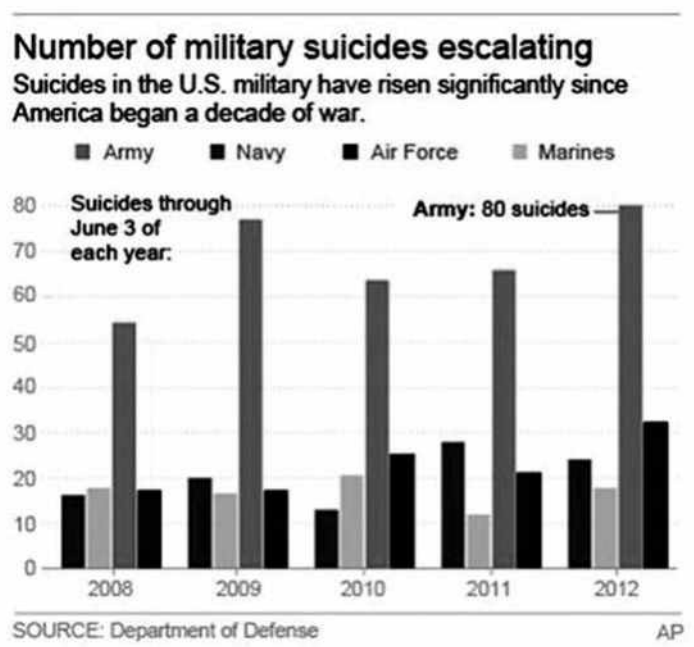
Maj. Gen. Dana Pittard, commander of the 1st Armored Division, last month retracted—but did not apologize for—a statement in his Army blog in January. He had written, "I have now come to the conclusion that suicide is an absolutely selfish act." He also wrote, ""I am personally fed up with soldiers who are choosing to take their own lives so that others can clean up their mess. Be an adult, act like an adult, and deal with your real-life problems like the rest of us." He did also counsel soldiers to seek help.

His remarks drew a public rebuke from the Army, which has the highest number of suicides and called his assertions "clearly wrong." Last week the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, said he disagrees with Pittard "in the strongest possible terms."

The military services have set up confidential telephone hotlines, placed more mental health specialists on the battlefield, added training in stress management, invested more in research on mental health risk and taken other measures.

The Marines established a counseling service dubbed "DStress line," a toll-free number that troubled Marines can call anonymously. They also can use a Marine website to chat online anonymously with a counselor.

The Marines arguably have had the most success recently in lowering their suicide numbers, which are up slightly this year but are roughly in line with levels of the past four years. The Army's numbers also are up slightly. The Air Force has seen a spike, to 32 through June 3 compared to 23 at the same point last year. The Navy is slightly above its 10-year trend line but down a bit from 2011.



As part of its prevention strategy, the Navy has published a list of "truths" about suicide.

"Most suicidal people are not psychotic or insane," it says. "They might be upset, grief-stricken, depressed or despairing."

In a report published in January the Army said the true impact of its prevention programs is unknown.

"What is known is that all Army populations ... are under increased stress after a decade of war," it said, adding that if not for prevention efforts the Army's suicide totals might have been as much as four times as high.

Marine Sgt. Maj. Bryan Battaglia, the senior enlisted adviser to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, recently issued a video message to all military members in which he noted that suicides "are sadly on the rise."

"From private to general, we shoulder an obligation to look and listen for signs and we stand ready to intervene and assist our follow service member or battle buddy in time of need," Battaglia said.

The suicide numbers began surging in 2006. They soared in 2009 and then leveled off before climbing again this year. The statistics include only active-duty troops, not veterans who returned to civilian life after fighting in Iraq or Afghanistan. Nor does the Pentagon's tally include non-mobilized National Guard or Reserve members.

The renewed surge in suicides has caught the attention of Defense Secretary Leon Panetta. Last month he sent an internal memo to the Pentagon's top civilian and military leaders in which he called suicide "one of the most complex and urgent problems" facing the Defense Department, according to a copy provided to the AP.

Panetta touched on one of the most sensitive aspects of the problem: the stigma associated with seeking help for mental distress. This is particularly acute in the military.

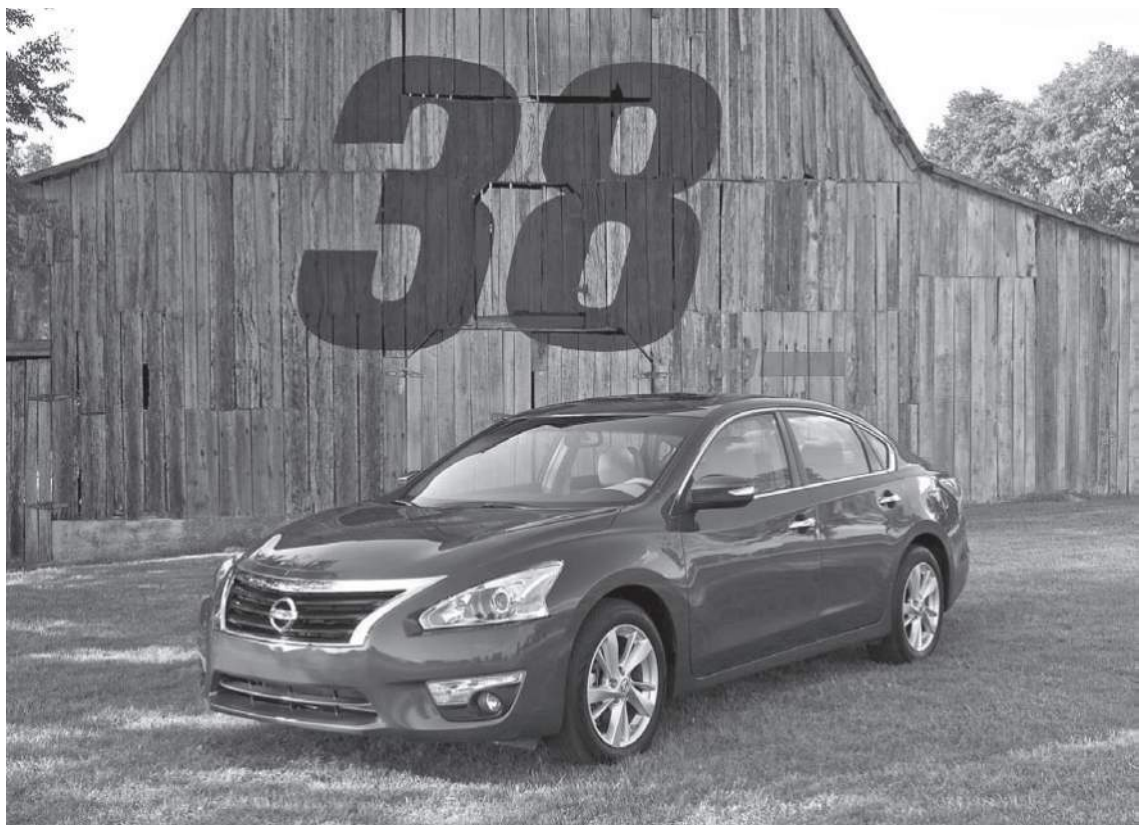
"We must continue to fight to eliminate the stigma from those with post-traumatic stress and other mental health issues," Panetta wrote, adding that commanders "cannot tolerate any actions that belittle, haze, humiliate or ostracize any individual, especially those who require or are responsibly seeking professional services."

AP broadcast correspondent Sagar Meghani contributed to this report.

Overdrive

Nissan Altima is ultimate

By MARK PHELAN
Detroit Free Press



NISSAN/MCT
The new Altima offers numerous segment defining attributes that enhance the ownership experience and provide real customer value, including targeted best-in-segment 38 mpg highway fuel economy (2.5-liter engine).

Fuel-efficient and feature-laden, the 2013 Nissan Altima shoots to the head of its class and lifts Nissan to new heights.

The Altima competes with the Chevrolet Malibu, Chrysler 200, Ford Fusion, Honda Accord, Hyundai Sonata, Kia Optima, Toyota Camry and Volkswagen Passat.

Prices for the front-wheel drive 2013 Altima start at $21,500 for a model with a 182-horsepower 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine and continuously variable transmission. Altimas powered by a 270-horsepower V-6 start at $25,360.

I tested a very well-equipped four-cylinder Altima 2.5 SL that cost $29,810. All prices exclude destination charges. The Altima goes on sale in July.

Nissan sold coupe and hybrid versions of the previous Altima. Neither model is available as the new car launches, but it would be no surprise to see them join the model line over the next couple of years.

The four-cylinder engine has plenty of perk. Over several hundred miles of highway, country and city driving, it proved more than capable in fast cruising, passing and traffic. Engine noise and vibration are noticeable under heavy acceleration, but not overly intrusive.

The Altima's new continuously variable transmission has 40 percent less friction and a wider range of ratios—about equivalent to a conventional automatic with eight gears—than the previous model. That contributes significantly to the car's outstanding 38 mpg. EPA highway fuel economy rating. That's 1 mpg better than the 2013 Chevrolet Malibu Eco and 2013 Ford Fusion 1.6-liter EcoBoost, which use special systems to maximize fuel economy.

It's a triumph that Nissan achieved 38 mpg without direct injection, batteries, turbocharging, diesel or any other costly technology.

The Altima's EPA ratings—27 mpg in city driving, 31 mpg in combined—also top comparable models of the 200, Accord, Camry, Fusion, Malibu, Optima, Passat and Sonata.

In addition to the new CVT and numerous improvements to the engine, an electric-hydraulic power steering system contributes to the Altima's fuel economy. With a base curb weight of 3,187 pounds, the Altima is also lighter than its competitors.

That light weight also contributes to the Altima's sporty and responsive handling. The steering is quick and direct, with good on-center feel. The speed variable system gives appropriate assist at low speed and on the highway.

The brakes have plenty of power and good pedal feel for easy modulation. A cleverly designed new rear suspension holds the road in fast maneuvers and absorbs bumps well.

The interior has plenty of room for front and rear passengers. The 15.4 cubic-foot trunk is bigger than all the competitors but the Fusion and Passat. The lid opens wide for easy loading of large objects.

The front seat has plenty of storage bins and cubbies. The car I tested had excellent voice recognition for phone and navigation. The quality of hands-free phone calls was good, as was control of both a wired iPod and streaming audio from my iPhone.

Other features include blind-spot, lane-departure and rear moving-object alerts. The blind-spot worked well, except for a couple of warnings when the lane next to me was empty. I found the lane-departure warning a bit too sensitive. It's not adjustable, so I turned it off.

Moving-object detection requires some explanation. A digital camera in the trunk lid has a nearly 180-degree field of vision and can recognize moving objects. If it senses something behind or to your side moving—a car coming down the row in a parking lot or a kid chasing a ball, for instance—a warning sounds.

Unlike ultrasonic backup assist, it does not recognize stationary objects. You can't just back up and expect it to warn you about the car parked behind you.

NUTS & BOLTS

2013 Nissan Altima

- Type of vehicle: Front-wheel drive five-passenger midsize sedan
- Rating: Four out of four stars
- Reasons to buy: Fuel efficiency, features, performance
- Shortcomings: Minor refinement issues
- Base price, base model: $22,500
- Base price, test model: $28,050
- Price as tested: $29,810

All prices exclude destination charges.

Hints for using Craigslist

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

I've bought several vehicles on Craigslist, most recently last month, and I've been pleased with each purchase. I've also learned some useful things along the way. Here are some tips on using the site to your best advantage:

■ Know what you want. Craigslist will have a listing for a sports car right next to one for a tour bus, right next to one for a tractor-trailer. Randomly scrolling through the ads takes forever.

■ Use the search function. Once you have settled on, say, a Honda Accord, punch that into the search function. There is a "minimum" and "maximum" price qualifier that can help you narrow the search. Check Craigslist sites in nearby cities for the same vehicle. If nothing else, it will give you a broader idea of average asking prices. I drove 300 miles to look at one vehicle; I didn't buy it, but I don't regret the trip.

■ Check the history. Using the vehicle's vehicle identification number you can run a history on Autocheck.com or CarFax.com. I bought a month's worth of checks on AutoCheck for $44.99, a good buy since one VIN search costs $29.99. These checks don't reveal everything, but at least they will show where the car has been registered and what the mileage was with each new owner. High mileage on a vehicle driven by a caring owner is better than low mileage logged by an idiot.

■ Beware brokers. Many people earn a living buying cars at auction or on Craigslist, then resell them at higher prices. There is nothing wrong with this, but brokers will know nothing of the car's history. They may also have done a quick freshening of the vehicle: One I looked at that a broker was selling had three brands of tires, suggesting he likely visited a used tire store to replace some bald tires as cheaply as he could. There was also a brand-new battery, but it was the cheapest available, with just a 24-month warranty, which tells me the battery was selected by price, with no long-term plan to do anything but move the car quickly.

■ Don't be impressed by detailing. Having a used car professionally detailed can improve the appearance, but shiny tire sidewalls or glistening radiator hoses doesn't mean they are good. If the seller balks at letting you take the vehicle to your mechanic for a check, that should figure into your decision.

■ For sellers: If a potential buyer gives you the creeps, cancel the meeting. Don't meet buyers alone. Think twice about letting them come to your house, or allowing them to drive your car unless you are convinced they are genuine.

UNDER THE HOOD

Overheating Cadillac defies diagnosticians

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I have a 2000 Cadillac with 96,000 miles on it. It has been overheating to the point of having it towed three times in the last year. I have had it checked out by my mechanics every time it overheats, and now they are at a loss as to the cause.

It is not leaking antifreeze, nor is there water on the dipstick. It is not blowing anything out the exhaust, so I don't think it would be a blown gasket. Of course that is just my opinion, which doesn't count for much.

The mechanics put a new thermostat in, and it worked for a few months. Then there was a new radiator cap, and it worked for awhile. They also checked to make sure the cooling fans were working. It then acted up again, and when it was towed for the third time, they let it idle for quite awhile to see if it would overheat — but it didn't. They told me to pick it up because they didn't know what else to do.

Now when I drive it, the temperature gauge goes to three-quarters of the way, but without overheating, before I get it back home. I also am not getting any heat from the heater now. Could the thermostat be at fault, although it isn't even a year since it was installed? Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated.—R.R.

ANSWER: This has to be very frustrating for you. I'd start by renewing the thermostat, a simple and inexpensive process, and then performing a cooling system pressure test, checking for leaks.

Another good test is to see if there are combustion gasses in the cooling system. This can be done by sampling vapors emitted from the removed radiator cap with a Block-Chek tool or emissions analyzer. If there's any sign of carbon monoxide, it's likely you have a head gasket failure.

If the leak check and combustion gas test checks are OK, let's check for proper airflow across the radiator. A build-up of bugs and debris within the A/C condenser fins, a radiator-like part in front of the radiator, can reduce airflow, which can cause problems during higher load engine conditions. Check also to see if the car is missing its lower air dam, a plastic part that directs vital cooling air from beneath the bumper to the radiator; air through the smallish chrome grille isn't sufficient. It sounds like the cooling fans have been checked, so I'll leave them be.

Here are some questions: Does the overheating occur only at higher speeds? This points to insufficient cooling, possibly from radiator restrictions, air flow, or an eroded water pump impeller. Are you adding coolant to keep the overflow bottle and radiator full? Coolant consumption indicates leakage or internal consumption. Has the temperature gauge been checked by comparing the reading to a temp gun test of the thermostat housing and a scan tool check of the engine coolant temperature sensor? Your gauge probably works, but it's a good idea to confirm accuracy.

Here are a few more things to consider: Check for at least a 20-degree temperature difference between the upper and lower radiator hoses when at operating temperature. Less than this implies poor heat transfer due to a restricted radiator or insufficient pump flow. Check the lower radiator hose, while cold, for excessive softness. If its internal stiffening spring has eroded away, it can collapse at higher engine speeds due to water pump suction, reducing coolant flow.

Your condition is solvable. With careful testing and observations, the cause can be found and fixed.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

Annie Oakley's gun fetches $143,400 at auction

McALLEN, Texas (AP)—A shotgun that once belonged to Western sharpshooter and entertainer Annie Oakley sold for more than $143,000 at an auction in Dallas on Sunday.

The trove of about 100 of the icon's items headlining Heritage Auctions' "Legends of the Wild West" event brought in nearly $520,000, according to the auction house.

The items included several guns, her Stetson hat, photographs and letters. Oakley's great-grandnieces put up the items and had inherited them from their mother, who died in 2009.

One of those descendants, Terrye Holcomb, said, overall, the auction's success left her with a positive feeling, but "there's a little bit of melancholy and sadness that goes with it."

The items had been passed down through generations. Holcomb remembers shooting the guns for target practice on Sunday mornings in California's Santa Monica Mountains and wearing Oakley's Stetson hat—which sold for $17,925—for Halloween.

But Holcomb said seeing how excited some of the buyers were with their purchases made her feel good.

One man who flew in from Odessa to bid on one of two Marlin .22 caliber rifles—one sold for $71,700, the other for $83,650—asked Holcomb and her sister, Tommye Tait, to sign his catalog after buying one of the rifles.

"He said his kids couldn't wait to shoot it," Holcomb said.

The sisters inherited the items from their mother, Billie Butler Serene, who died in 2009 at the age of 95.

Serene was raised by her grandparents, and her grandfather, William Butler, was the brother of Oakley's husband, Frank Butler, a marksman who became Oakley's manager. Oakley and Frank Butler frequently visited and Oakley taught Serene how to handle a gun.

AP

This handout photo, provided by Heritage Auctions, shows Annie Oakley in one of her cabinet photos. Oakley wears the dark wig she wore for The Western Girl was taken in New York between 1902 and 1904.

Holcomb said she grew up hearing stories about Oakley without fully realizing her impact.

"I've not ceased being amazed by her enduring legacy," she said.

Oakley's Parker Brothers 12-gauge shotgun garnered the highest price, $143,400. Tom Slater, Director of Historical Auctions for Heritage, would not identify the gun's buyer, but said he was a private collector of Oakley and Buffalo Bill items and had purchased a number of Sunday's auction pieces.

While the guns' prices met the auction's expectations, the letters and photographs exceeded what was anticipated by about 50 percent, Slater said. It's rare for so many pieces with a strong family connection to come on the market, he said.

"Annie Oakley was arguably America's first female superstar, touring the US and the world in the late 1800s and early 20th century and demonstrating her legendary Wild West sharpshooting skills," Slater said.

Oakley became famous for her marksmanship while traveling in Buffalo Bill's Wild West show. She died in 1926 at the age of 66.

Egypt pulls TV spots warning about foreigners

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's government has pulled TV public service announcements that warned against talking to foreigners because they might be spies after critics charged the spots fueled xenophobia and aimed to tarnish those behind last year's uprising.

The two spots ran on state and private television stations for a few days before Minister of Information Ahmed Anis ordered them off the air, a media official said Sunday.

One opens with a blond-haired young man scanning a cafe while a narrator says:

"From the beginning, he knows why he is here and sets up his goal. He won't have to spend much time getting to know the people in the place." The foreigner then spots three young Egyptians and heads over to them, saying in broken Arabic: "I love you so much." The narrator says: "Our generosity has no limits," as one of the Egyptians stands up, shakes hands and invites the foreigner to sit with them.

It goes on to show the visitor smiling slyly and narrowing his eyes while listening intently to the Egyptians complaining about the economy and talking about overhearing a plot against the ruling military council in the subway. The narrator warns Egyptians not to share with outsiders their woes about the economy or political situation.

Both spots close with: "Every word comes with a price. A word can save a nation."

Claims of a "meddling foreign hand" found resonance among many Egyptians during and after the uprising. The revolt was driven by youthful activists who relied heavily on social networking sites.

But some among the wider public have mixed feelings about foreigners and suspect the United States, Israel and others are scheming against their nation and Islam, the faith of most Egyptians. At the same time, they worry about losing the country's main source of income, tourism.

It is not clear which state agency ordered production of the TV announcements. But some pointed the finger at Egypt's security agencies, including intelligence and military intelligence, which have a long-standing xenophobic culture. The agencies have remained largely intact after Hosni Mubarak's ouster in the uprising, which left power in the hands of a military council led by Mubarak's defense minister of 20 years.

Ahmed Maher, co-founder of April 6, one of the youth groups that steered the uprising, described the spots as "deceptive to spread fear of conspiracies and tarnish the image of the revolutionaries by indicating that dealing with foreign journalists leads to leaking dangerous information about Egypt."

'Once' crowned best musical at the Tony Awards

MARK KENNEDY
AP DRAMA WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The bittersweet musical "Once" captured the hearts of Tony Award voters on Sunday night, winning eight trophies and earning bragging rights as the top musical on Broadway, even as most shows came away with at least something to crow about.

"It's just amazing," said Cristin Milioti, the female lead in "Once," of her show's Tony haul, as she made a quick trip through the elaborate food stations at the gala post-Tony party at the Plaza Hotel.

Bruce Norris' "Clybourne Park," the remarkably perceptive Pulitzer Prize-winning play about race and real estate, won the best play Tony.

Audra McDonald was named best lead actress in a musical and her "The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess" was named best musical revival. This is her fifth Tony Award, tying the competitive record held by Angela Lansbury and Julie Harris.

"I was a little girl with a potbelly and afro puffs, hyperactive and overdramatic. And I found the theater, and I found my home," McDonald said. Looking down at her daughter from the stage, she said her big night wasn't as wonderful as the night her daughter was born.

Her one-time co-star in "110 in the Shade," Steve Kazee, a 36-year-old rising star and guitar player with matinee idol looks, emerged as best actor in a musical, and broke down thinking of his mother, who died Easter Sunday.

Another new star, Nina Arianda, won best leading actress in a play, beating stiff competition from Tracie Bennett, Stockard Channing, Linda Lavin and Cynthia Nixon.

Accepting the award from presenter Christopher Plummer, Arianda admitted something very personal to the 82-year-old Plummer: "You were my first crush!" she squealed.

In perhaps the biggest shock of the night, James Corden nabbed the lead acting Tony Award in a play for his clownish turn in the British import "One Man, Two Guvnors." He beat out the favorite, Philip Seymour Hoffman in "Death of a Salesman."

Corden directed most of his comment to his girlfriend, Julia, who gave birth to his son a year ago and whom he intends to marry soon.

"I would not be holding this if it wasn't for her. She made me say `us' instead of `I' and `we' instead of `me' and I love her," he said.

Arthur Miller's 63-year-old masterpiece "Death of a Salesman" won the Tony for best play revival and Mike Nichols won his ninth Tony for directing it. He said the play has a special meaning for those who work in show biz.

"There's not a person in this theater that doesn't know what it is to be a salesman—to be out there in the blue riding on a smile and a shoeshine," he said. "As we know, a salesman has got to dream. It goes with the territory."

First Year Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of

Vicente M. Taitano

"Ben"

We, the family, humbly invite all our relatives and friends to please join us as we celebrate our beloved †Ben Taitano's First Year Death Anniversary in our fellowship at our Rosary and Celebrations of the Eucharist at San Jose Church, Oleai as follow:

June 10th & June 17th, 2012 **Mass: 7:30 a.m. & Rosary: 7:00 p.m.**
June 11th thru June 16th, 2012 **Mass: 6:00 a.m. & Rosary: 7:00 p.m.**

On the final day Monday, June 18th, 2012 rosary will be said at 5:00 a.m. and Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 a.m. follow by breakfast.

Olomwaay, Si Yu'us Ma'asi and Thank You for your prayers

Margarita R. Olopai-Taitano,
Children and Family

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Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:30
Sunday thru Thursday	1:15	4:15	7:15	

Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer
Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis

The third entry in the Madagascar franchise finds the tightknit group of animals joining a traveling circus in order to get back home. Noah Baumbach provides the script, with Eric Darnell handling director duties. Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer, Jada Pinkett Smith, and Sacha Baron Cohen reprise the voice roles, with Frances McDormand stepping in as the villain.

Prometheus

Friday		4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	10:00
Sunday thru Thursday	1:30	4:30	7:30	

Noomi Rapace, Michael Fassbender
Science Fiction • Rated R

Synopsis

Director Ridley Scott steps back into sci-fi territory with this tale that takes its cues from the Alien films — which it was originally supposed to tie in to before growing into its own mythology during pre-production. Jon Spaihts and Damon Lindelof provide the script, while The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo's Noomi Rapace and Michael Fassbender head up the cast, which also includes Charlize Theron, Ben Foster, and Idris Elba.

Snow White and The Huntsman

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday thru Thursday	1:05	4:05	7:05	

Kristen Stewart, Chris Hemsworth
Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Men In Black 3

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:45
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:45
Sunday thru Thursday	1:20	4:20	7:20	

Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Battleship

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:50
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:50
Sunday thru Thursday	1:00	4:00	7:00	

Liam Neeson, Taylor Kitsch
Science fiction, War • Rated PG 13

The Dictator

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday thru Thursday	1:25	4:25	7:25	

Sacha Baron Cohen, Anna Faris
Comedy • Rated R

Marvel's The Avengers

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:55
Sunday thru Thursday	1:10	4:10	7:10	

Robert Downey, Jr., Chris Evans, Samuel L. Jackson
Action • Rated PG 13

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Tom Cruise: movie star, not rock star

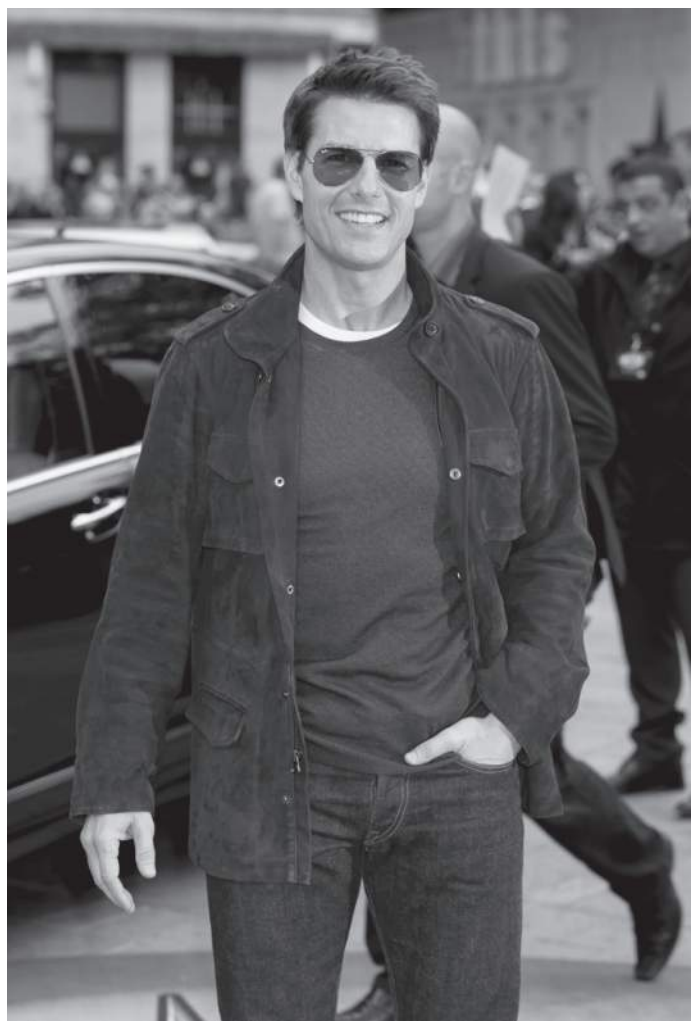
LONDON (AP)—Tom Cruise attended the European premier of his new film "Rock of Ages" in London's Leicester Square on Sunday and was joined on the red carpet by fellow stars Julianne Hough, Russell Brand, Paul Giamatti and Mary J. Blige.

Cruise plays the tattooed—and frequently shirtless—rock star Stacee Jaxx in the tribute to the big-haired, big-riffing glam metal sound of the 1980s. But when asked if he had the choice between the life of a movie star or a rock star, Cruise said he would to stick with his day job.

"I love my job, and I feel very privileged to be able to do it. It has been a dream of mine, and I love what I do," he said.

However, the "Mission Impossible" star makes a very convincing rocker, and he had to embrace all of his character's rock `n' roll habits. These included being hands on with his female co-stars.

When asked about this, the ever cool Cruise said he took Jaxx's characteristics in stride. "It was a character, and it was something where you were trying to find where we can find the comedy. Comedy is different, from Les Grossman to this kind of character, and there is no half way with rock `n' roll. You have to go all of the way, particularly with Stacee," he laughed.



AP

U.S. actor Tom Cruise arrives for the European Premiere of Rock of Ages, at a central London cinema Sunday, June 10, 2012.

Based on the musical hit, the movie tells the story of small town girl Sherrie (Hough) and city boy Drew (Diego Boneta) who share a dream of reaching dizzying heights in Hollywood. Their glittery romance is set to a rock `n' roll soundtrack that includes hits from Def Leppard, Foreigner, Bon Jovi, and Poison.

Recording artist Blige, who also rocks out in the film, said she enjoyed embracing rock `n' roll for the part. "It felt good. I mean it is the same energy as a lot of the songs that I sing, so it was very easy to do," she said.

The film has its fair share of intimate moments, with unlikely couples locking lips.

Brand shares a moment with Alec Baldwin, with whom Brand appears to be quite smitten. "He is a very sensual, erotic individual. He has a very powerful sexuality, and I wanted to fall asleep in his arms and wake up in his smile," he joked.

Actress Malin Akerman, who gets the pleasure of kissing Cruise, shared her words of wisdom on how to prepare for such a moment.

"A lot of mints, a lot of mints. You never want to kill your co-star. But you can't really prepare for that. You know it is going to be a funny moment. I loved it in the script, and you get there on the day and you just go for it," she said with a laugh.

"Rock of Ages" is being released in the U.S. and the U.K. on Friday.

'Madagascar 3,' 'Prometheus' team for big weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Circus animals and space beasts have lifted Hollywood to a huge weekend.

The cuddly critters of "Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted" led the weekend with a $60.4 million debut domestically, followed by a big opening for Ridley Scott's alien saga "Prometheus" at No. 2 with $50 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

DreamWorks Animation's "Madagascar 3" was the family favorite for the weekend, reuniting voice stars Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, Jada Pinkett Smith and David Schwimmer as the zoo animals continue their travels by joining a circus.

"Madagascar 3" outdid the $47.2 million debut of the 2005 original, though it came in behind the $63.1 million opening of the first sequel, 2008's "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa." ``Europe's Most Wanted" had the added benefit of today's higher ticket prices and a bump from fans who caught 3-D shows, which cost a few dollars more than 2-D screenings.

Still, fans remain loyal to the franchise, and "Madagascar 3" received generally better reviews than the previous two installments.

"It's the beloved characters and their comic adventures. And `Madagascar 3' is critically the best-reviewed of the franchise. Both audiences and critics really love this one the most," said Anne Globe, head of marketing for DreamWorks Animation.

"Madagascar 3" also took in $75.5 million internationally for a worldwide debut of $135.9 million.

AP

This film image released by DreamWorks Animation shows, Gloria the Hippo, voiced by Jada Pinkett Smith, from left, Alex the Lion, voiced by Ben Stiller, Melman the Giraffe, voiced by David Schwimmer, and Marty the Zebra, voiced by Chris Rock in a scene from "Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted."

"Prometheus," from 20th Century Fox, stars Noomi Rapace, Michael Fassbender and Charlize Theron in an offshoot of director's Scott's 1979 sci-fi horror tale "Alien." ``Prometheus" did big business despite an R rating, which can limit a movie's audience since fans under 17 must see it with an adult.

The one-two punch of "Madagascar 3" and "Prometheus" lifted Hollywood out of an early dip in summer-season revenue. After three-straight weekends of declining receipts, domestic business totaled $177 million, up 29 percent from the same weekend last year, when "Super 8" led with $35.5 million, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. **"Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted,"** $60.4 million ($75.5 million).
2. **"Prometheus,"** $50 million ($39.2 million international).
3. **"Snow White & the Huntsman,"** $23 million ($24.6 million international).
4. **"Men in Black 3,"** $13.5 million ($38.3 million international).
5. **"The Avengers,"** $10.8 million ($7.8 million international).
6. **"The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel,"** $3.2 million ($342,000 international).
7. **"What to Expect When You're Expecting,"** $2.7 million.
8. **"Battleship,"** $2.3 million.
9. **"The Dictator,"** $2.2 million ($4.9 million international).
10. **"Moonrise Kingdom,"** $1.6 million.

Lady Gaga struck by pole during New Zealand show

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP)—Lady Gaga has been struck on the head by a pole while performing a concert in New Zealand.

The singer was hit Sunday during the third of three shows in Auckland.

Clips posted online show a backup performer accidentally striking Gaga with the set prop while removing it from the central stage. Gaga, holding a mock machine gun, staggers and rubs her head before briefly leaving the stage. She continued the show, part of a world tour.

Gaga's makeup artist Tara Savelo wrote Monday on Twitter: "Gaga has a concussion but she is going to be okay...cant believe she finished the show."

Gaga's New Zealand publicist Bridget de Launay said Monday she was seeking comment from tour organizers, adding the Auckland shows were sellouts and a "huge success."

In this May 16, 2012, file photo, Lady Gaga arrives at the Sungshan airport in Taipei, Taiwan.

AP

Donald Sutherland honored in France

PARIS (AP)—Actor Donald Sutherland has been awarded the honor Commander of the Arts in France for his contribution to cinema.

Sutherland was decorated on Saturday evening at a ceremony in Paris by former French Culture Minister Frederic Mitterrand, who praised the Canadian star's "extraordinary" career—with diverse roles in films such as Federico Fellini's "Casanova."

There were chuckles as Mitterrand struggled to tie the medallion around the 76-year-old actor, who sported the long silver hair last seen for his role in blockbuster movie "The Hunger Games."

Sutherland said he loved France, and thanked his French-speaking wife for introducing him to the country's culture through "cinema, but also cheese and baguettes."

'Jersey Shore' cast member Deena Cortese arrested in NJ

SEASIDE HEIGHTS, N.J. (AP)—A "Jersey Shore" cast member has been arrested in the New Jersey town where the MTV show is based.

Seaside Heights Police Chief Tommy Boyd tells WNBC TV in New York that Deena Cortese was arrested Sunday afternoon on a disorderly conduct charge. Boyd says a borough officer saw Cortese "a little intoxicated" and standing in the middle of a street, slapping cars that were driving by.

Boyd says Cortese was taken to police headquarters and later released on a summons.

MTV publicists did not immediately respond to requests for a comment on Sunday night, and a number for Cortese could not be located.

The popular reality show just recently started shooting its new season in the Ocean County community.

'Cake Boss' to sell his creations in US stores

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—"Cake Boss" Buddy Valastro says he's long wanted to give fans of his popular TLC reality TV show an opportunity to taste the cakes viewers watch him bake and decorate.

So Valastro gave his cake recipes to the family-run company that supplies his Hoboken, N.J., bakery with goods like sugar and flour to help create a cake line that could be mass produced.

That line, based on recipes and designs of cakes he's made before, rolls out this summer, starting with the "Badda Bloom"—a two-layer cake, one chocolate and one vanilla, with a layer of fudge and covered in bright green, butter cream frosting with pink and purple flowers. The same two-layer cake will also be available in a more gender-neutral "My Party Cake" design of blue, purple and green balloons and confetti over a layer of bright yellow frosting.

"What makes me unique is my designs," Valastro told The Associated Press. "We came up with the designs, using my exact ingredients and baking instructions, down to how many revolutions for mixing the batter. ... I'm proud of this."

AP

This undated photo provided by DKC Public Relations shows "Cake Boss" star Buddy Valastro.

Valastro was to unveil the new cakes at the International Dairy-Deli-Bakery Association show, which runs Sunday through Tuesday at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. The cakes are headed for bakeries and grocery stores across the country this summer.

"I just love what I do," said Valastro, a fourth-generation baker. "I love making cakes, and I'm good at it."

Valastro's reality TV show follows him and his Carlo's Bakery staff as they turn out custom wedding cakes, specialty cakes and pastries. The show, in its fifth season, is often peppered with drama from Valastro's big Italian family and customers who come to him with sometimes outrageous requests. In one episode, he was asked to design a cake in the shape of a toilet bowl.

"Cakes are special," he said. "Every birthday, every celebration ends with something sweet, a cake, and people remember. It's all about the memories."

Valastro said he was a little apprehensive about mass producing his cakes, which he describes as "delicious, old-fashioned, old-world cakes" using high-quality ingredients.

"I was a little like, `This is my baby. This is my name,'" he said.

But after months of planning, going over designs and taste-testing, "when they brought the last final prototypes, you couldn't tell the difference between their cakes and mine. For me, that's the biggest thing."

For the venture, Valastro partnered with TLC and Dawn Foods, a family-owned supplier of baking goods that Valastro says he has used for more than 20 years. He said he plans to add cupcakes and fondant cakes to the line later this summer.

"We're about quality," he said. "I don't want people to get a bad cake. It will reflect badly on me."

The cakes will retail for $27.99. Designs and pricing for the fondant cakes are still being discussed. A list of bakeries and grocery stores where the cakes will be available will be released later this month.

"Cake Boss" airs Mondays at 9 p.m. EDT on TLC.

Les Paul guitar auction fetches nearly $5M

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—An auction of guitars and memorabilia owned by the late Les Paul, known as the godfather of the electric guitar, has raised nearly $5 million for a foundation in his name benefiting music education and innovation.

Julien's Auctions of Beverly Hills said Sunday that the two-day sale fetched record-setting prices for guitars. The items most coveted by rock musicians, museum curators and collectors included a 1951 Fender No-Caster, which sold for $216,000, a 1982 Gibson Les Paul that went for $180,000 and a 1940s Epiphone Zephyr that fetched $144,000.

Other Paul memorabilia included a recording console ($106,250), research notes ($28,125) and guitar schematics ($40,625).

Paul invented one of the world's most widely played guitars, the Gibson Les Paul. The sale concluded Saturday, on what would have been his 97th birthday.

Husband with fatal disease is determined to enjoy life now

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My husband, who is 55, has been diagnosed with Pick's disease, or frontotemporal dementia. His prognosis is from two to seven years—only God knows. We are handling this with better-than-average concern. It is his diabetes that everyone keeps going on about. He's on medication and his diabetes is under control.

My problem is, I let my husband eat whatever he wants within reason. If we're out to dinner and he wants ice cream, or asks me to buy him his favorite lemon cookies, I don't argue. When people tell me I shouldn't do that, my husband replies that he is already dying, so why shouldn't he enjoy his life now?

He still enjoys baseball and taking our granddaughter to the zoo. He is still mobile and, in fact, has recently lost 45 pounds. People don't understand his attitude, but he is right. He IS dying, and I am letting him enjoy his final years. Am I wrong for doing this? I want him to enjoy what he can now, as there will come a time when he can't.

LOVES HIM IN NEBRASKA

DEAR LOVES HIM: Please accept my sympathy for your husband's diagnosis. As someone who also believes in quality of life rather than quantity, I see nothing wrong in allowing him those pleasures he enjoys. For your husband, the countdown to zero has begun. You are both being rational and realistic. Clarify that fact for the naysayers or ignore them.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman who suffers from syncope. I become lightheaded whenever I must have blood drawn or a needle prick—it doesn't matter which. My physician and her nurse always accommodate me by allowing me to lie down during these procedures, and consequently I have never fainted.

However, if I go elsewhere for a procedure, as I recently did to a free medical screening, after telling the medical personnel about the syncope, the reactions I typically receive range from a look like I have two heads to comments like: "Oh, this will be real quick; you won't feel a thing," "Don't watch" or "Think of something else."

Well, I did experience an episode of syncope during that last screening, and it was very embarrassing. Why won't medical personnel LISTEN to what a patient tells them? Who knows my body better than I do?

SYNCO-PEEVED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR SYNCO-PEEVED: Believe me, I empathize. However, free screenings can be as jam-packed as a casting call for "American Idol." Overwhelmed medical personnel may not be able to accommodate someone who has special needs. That's why it's important when you hear comments such as those you mentioned that you insist on being helped by someone who understands what the implications of syncope are. You may have to wait a bit longer, but it may prevent a blackout.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Should a mother call her son if he is a father to wish him a Happy Father's Day?

ANDRIETTA IN NEW YORK

DEAR ANDRIETTA: That would be a nice gesture. He qualifies.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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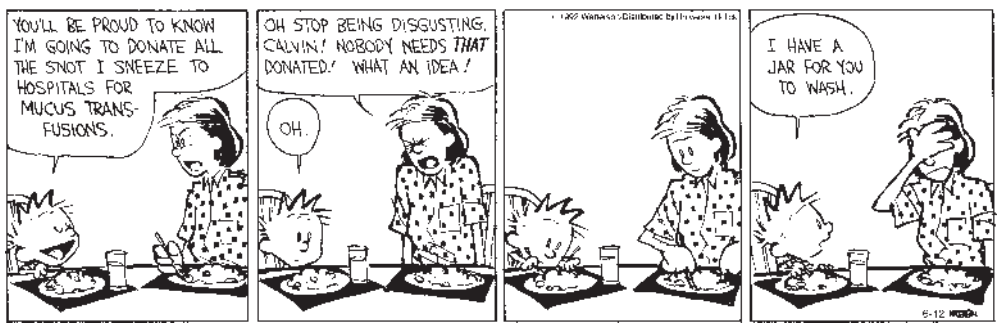
Pastimes

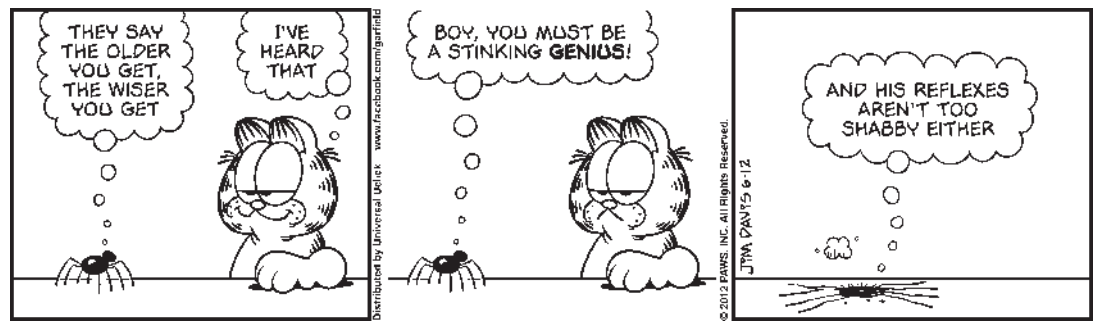
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


YOU'LL BE PROUD TO KNOW I'M GOING TO DONATE ALL THE SNOT I SNEEZE TO HOSPITALS FOR MUCUS TRANS-FUSIONS.
OH STOP BEING DISGUSTING, CALVIN! NOBODY NEEDS THAT DONATED! WHAT AN IDEA!
OH.
I HAVE A JAR FOR YOU TO WASH.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


THEY SAY THE OLDER YOU GET, THE WISER YOU GET
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AND HIS REFLEXES AREN'T TOO SHABBY EITHER
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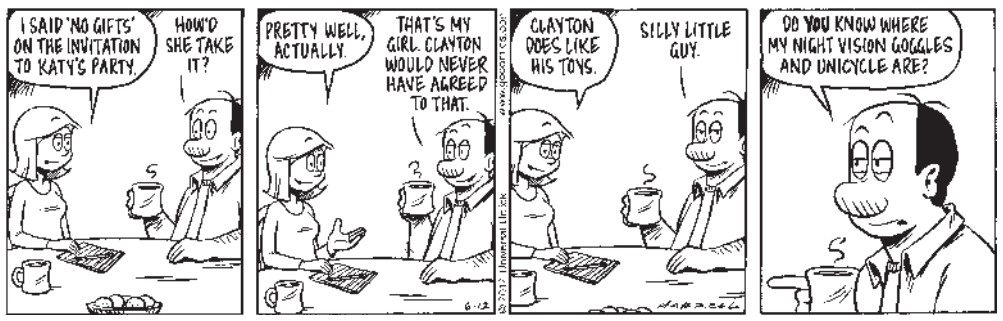
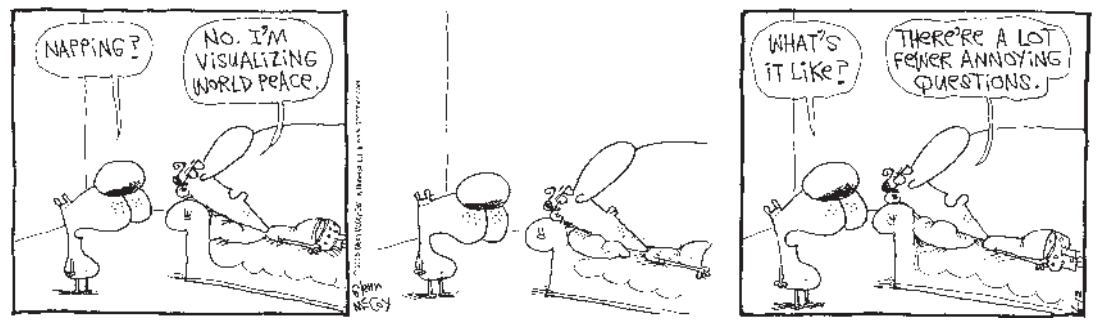
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I SAID 'NO GIFTS' ON THE INVITATION TO KATY'S PARTY.
HOW'D SHE TAKE IT?
PRETTY WELL, ACTUALLY.
THAT'S MY GIRL. CLAYTON WOULD NEVER HAVE AGREED TO THAT.
CLAYTON DOES LIKE HIS TOYS.
SILLY LITTLE GUY.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE MY NIGHT VISION GOGGLES AND UNICYCLE ARE?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

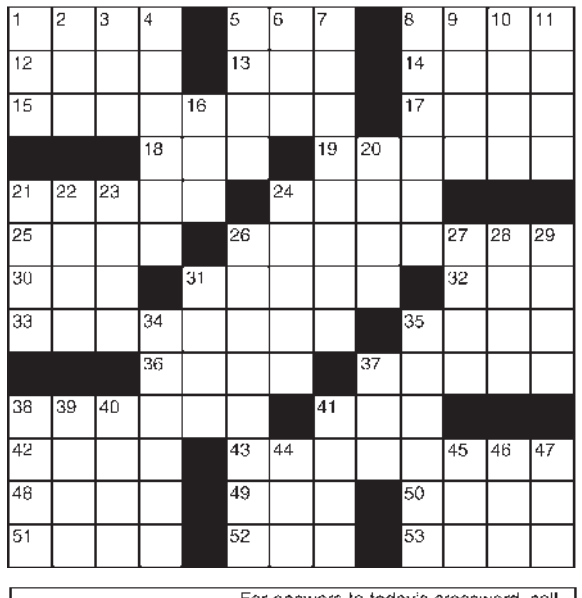
ACROSS
1 Sea bird
5 Trail behind
8 Not hit
12 Neighborhood
13 Melody
14 Concept
15 Iris' cousin
17 Forsaken
18 — and don'ts
19 Sentimental song
21 Colorado ski mecca
24 Competent
25 Equipment
26 1970s music genre
30 Rowing need
31 Boasts
32 Fish eggs
33 Arctic sights
35 Recording
36 Detail
37 Sea anemone, e.g.
38 "Jeopardy!" emcee
41 Witnessed
42 Medal earner
43 Gorbachev's policy
48 Bar
49 Lummox
50 Press
51 Radius neighbor
52 Coloring agent
53 Right on the map?

DOWN
1 Joke
2 Web address
3 Meadow
4 Firetruck need
5 Asian nation
6 Have a bug
7 Miscellaneous collections
8 "Death of a Salesman" writer
9 "American —"
10 Antitoxins
11 Beach stuff
16 Charged bit
20 Donations to the needy
21 Enthusiastic, plus
22 Close up tightly
23 Prefix with legal or normal
24 Startle
26 Zeus, for one
27 Exam format
28 Imitate
29 Retain
31 Chomp
34 Treasure site with seven cities
35 Permanent resident
37 — de deux
38 From one end to the other
39 Actual
40 Green land
41 Secure
44 Put (down)
45 Man-mouse link
46 "Help!"
47 Stick with a kick

Solution time: 21 mins.

R	A	P	■	S	C	A	B	S	■	C	B	S
E	W	E	■	P	O	L	L	O	■	O	A	K
V	E	R	M	I	L	I	O	N	■	T	R	Y
■	■	■	A	D	O	■	O	N	S	I	T	E
P	O	P	P	E	R	■	D	E	L	L	■	■
A	L	Y	■	R	E	D	■	T	A	L	C	S
R	I	G	A	■	D	E	R	■	M	I	R	O
M	O	M	M	A	■	N	O	T	■	O	U	R
■	■	■	A	M	B	O	■	B	R	O	N	Z
A	B	L	O	O	M	■	B	O	W	■	■	■
I	F	I	■	R	E	B	F	I	I	I	O	N
M	A	O	■	A	G	I	R	L	■	T	W	O
S	U	N	■	L	A	D	Y	S	■	S	E	W

Yesterday's answer 6-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kendra Wilkinson Baskett, 27; Kenny Wayne Shepherd, 35; DJ Qualls, 34; Chick Corea, 71.

Happy Birthday: Avoid aggressive people. It's OK to offer help, but don't let someone take advantage of you. Your focus should be on self-improvement and developing better relationships with the older and younger people in your life. Getting involved in an organization or group that offers give-and-take will lead to future benefits. Your numbers are 2, 9, 21, 26, 37, 41, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You may think you are being spontaneous, but reckless will be a more accurate description. Think twice before you do or say something you might regret. Slow down and focus on acquiring information that will help you make a better choice. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Ask questions and pick up information that can help you gain insight into your pursuits. Apply pressure in order to get what you want or to stay on schedule. Stick to your original plans or you will appear to be unstable. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Youngsters or people you find incompetent will try your patience. Keep your facts straight, especially when dealing with work or authority figures. Keep your options open. Honesty and integrity will count, especially if you need a helping hand. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Ask direct questions and find out exactly what's going on. Refuse to bend under pressure. Focus on your goals instead of what someone else wants to accomplish. If you want a partnership to survive, strive for equality. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make alterations that will change your life or your geographical location. Romance is on the rise and will be enhanced by gestures of friendliness and kindness when asked for help. Altering your lifestyle to suit your needs will pay off. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Dishonesty is apparent in business discussions. Watch what everyone is doing. Make decisions or professional moves based on facts and figures, not empty promises. Stress will lead to health issues. Take care of your physical and mental wellness. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Network, but question anyone telling you something that sounds too good to be true. You may want to pursue physical improvements, but do your research. You only get what you pay for. Love is highlighted and on the rise. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't invest for the wrong reason. If you want to help someone, do so without expecting any returns. Focus on unusual topics, pastimes and people. What you pick up will help you make unique changes to your home and lifestyle. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Move forward cautiously when it comes to professional and personal partnerships. Back away from anyone putting pressure or demands on you. Altering the way you interact with loved ones will enhance your relationships. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): The changes or choices someone makes may upset your world. Don't take responsibility for someone else's actions or fold under pressure because of an emotional attachment. Be true to you. Sit tight until a positive move can be made. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Rely on experience to aid you in making the best choice now. Making a domestic move or reuniting with people you feel can contribute more to your life looks promising. Preparation will be key to your advancement. Love is enhanced. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll face opposition. Listen to what's being suggested before you launch a new idea or plan. Excess appears to be a problem. Whether it's you or someone else overspending, overdoing or overindulging, you must proceed cautiously. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, excitable and determined to follow your own path.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5	7		2			
	8				4	1		
2	3			5				
4			2			8		
		7		8		3		
		6			1			7
				7			1	5
		4	9				8	
			1		8	4		

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	3	8	7	4	9	5	2	1
4	7	1	5	8	2	6	9	3
9	2	5	6	1	3	7	4	8
1	6	9	4	5	7	3	8	2
2	8	7	3	6	1	4	5	9
3	5	4	2	9	8	1	6	7
5	1	2	8	7	6	9	3	4
8	9	6	1	3	4	2	7	5
7	4	3	9	2	5	8	1	6

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BOY BANDS THEN AND NOW **Solution: 11 letters**

J	B	B	L	A	S	E	E	K	N	O	M	A	L	E
S	O	I	E	E	R	H	T	I	D	S	A	S	O	N
R	V	N	G	A	B	A	N	A	E	U	P	Ⓦ	T	O
E	C	E	E	B	C	E	S	V	K	U	R	Ⓗ	O	Z
H	B	D	M	D	A	H	E	H	O	E	A	Ⓐ	W	Y
T	W	A	N	A	I	N	B	R	I	N	T	Ⓜ	N	O
O	K	E	C	E	L	R	G	O	S	K	C	H	D	B
R	C	L	S	K	W	F	E	O	Y	F	S	A	A	O
B	O	E	C	T	S	E	N	C	L	S	M	N	D	T
I	L	C	F	N	L	T	D	Y	T	A	A	E	I	S
G	B	N	V	E	Y	I	R	I	G	I	G	N	M	H
T	H	A	G	N	I	S	F	E	T	R	O	A	O	B
I	S	D	I	K	W	E	N	E	E	I	E	N	L	J
M	U	D	E	T	N	A	W	E	H	T	O	U	R	S
E	R	S	D	N	O	M	S	O	T	R	E	N	D	S

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Arashi, Backstreet, BBMak, Beach Boys, Big Bang, Big Time, Block, Blue, Boyzone, Brothers, Damage, Dance, Degrees, Duran, Flame, Groups, Hanson, Honor, Jonas, Lead, Live, Male, McFly, Monkees, New Edition, New Kids, Nine, 'N Sync, One Direction, Osmonds, O-Town, Rush, Seven, Sing, Take That, Teams, The Wanted, Three, Tours, Trends, Westlife, Wham

Yesterday's Answer: Timeless

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 23 is the Presidential Census of the U.S. presidents and Canadian prime ministers. To order, send $8.95 each (U.S. funds only please) to Puzzles, Dept. 53, 3268 Sabre Dr., Ste. 160, Southlake, TX 76092. Credit card orders call toll-free 800-850-9663 or visit www.WORDWORD.com. Volumes 1-10, 12-18, 20-22 are $6.95 each. Volumes 11, 19 and 23 are $8.95 each. Add $1.50 per book for shipping and handling. Texas residents add sales tax. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

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Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

2 - PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Please drop resume to the main office located in Finasisu, former LISS.
Valley of Glory Investment (USA) Corp.
PMB 62 Box 10003, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: 288-9583
Contact Person: **Mr. Kang**

WANTED

2 WAITER/WAITRESS

- Must be a U.S. Citizen (fluent in English)
- Must be 21 yrs. old & above
- High school graduate

Walk-in applicants only, with picture.
No phone calls.
Deadline: June 22, 2012

Country House Restaurant

WHATZIT Solution: Spellbound

Name: James and Jesusa R. Cabrera
P.O. Box 5662, CHRB
Saipan, MP 96950

Telephone No.: 670-285-0179

Pro-Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter of the Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For:	)	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO.: 12-0266
Jaquelyn Rose Mina R. Cabrera, Minor Child(ren)	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
By:	)	
James D. and Jesusa R. Cabrera Petitioners	)	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on June 14, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 8th day of June, 2012

Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

"My wish is to have my own PC with a DVD player and CD burner!"

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Saipan Tribune

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Mount Carmel School

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Fax No. (670) 235-4751
Email: mtcarmel@pticom.com
Web: http://www.mtcarmel-edu.net

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position	Need	Salary Range	Qualifications	Closing Date
Vice Principal for Curriculum and Instruction	01	$27,000/annum to $29,503.63/annum	Bachelor's Degree with 2 years experience in school administration preferably in Curriculum & Instruction	06/22/12

Interested applicants may obtain a detailed job description with qualification requirements and application forms at Mount Carmel School Business Office from 08:00 am to 04:00 pm. Application forms can also be downloaded from the school's website at http://www.mtcarmel-edu.net. Required documents that must be attached to complete the application form: (1) official copy of diploma/degree or Official Transcripts; (2) FBI clearance (only required after an offer for employment is made or an employment contract is signed; (3) police clearance (from jurisdiction or residence within the last three (3) months; (4) resume; and (5) teaching certificate. Completed application and required documents may be submitted to Mount Carmel School, ATTN: Margaret C. DelaCruz, President, P.O. Box 500006, Saipan, MP 96950. Inquiries can be made by calling (670) 234-6184 or (670) 235-3187. Mount Carmel School is an equal opportunity employer.

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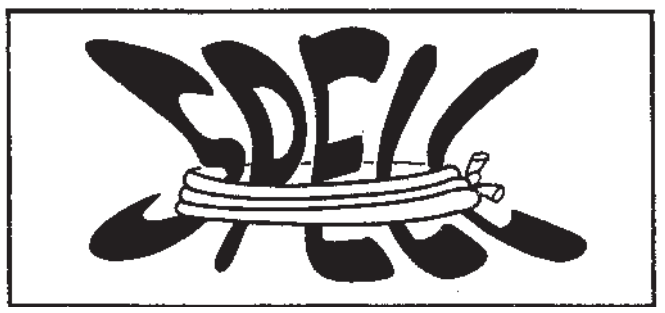
WHATZIT™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

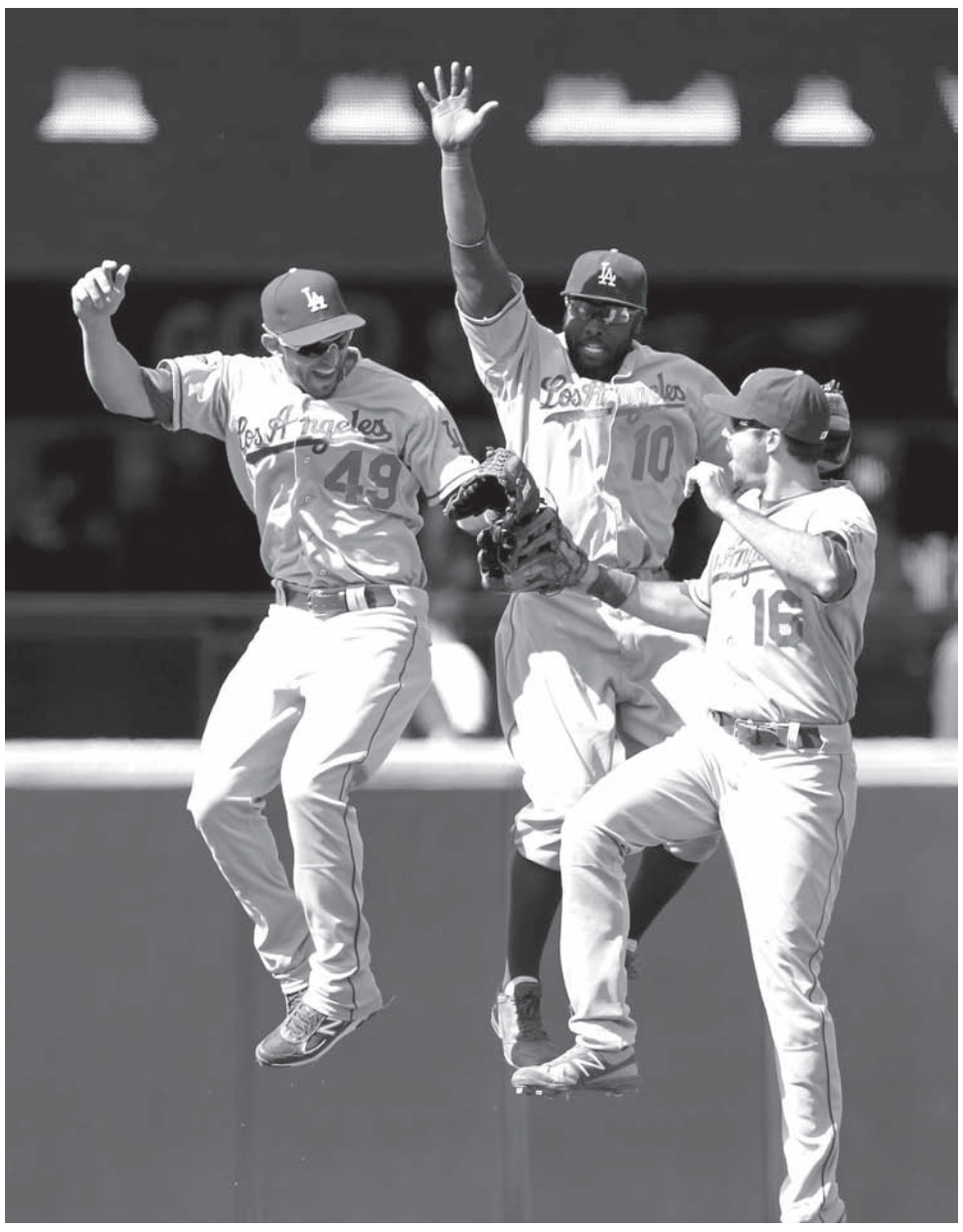
Find today's solution in classified section

Dodgers take series from Mariners with 8-2 victory

SEATTLE (AP)—Andre Ethier awakened from a recent slump with his fourth career grand slam to cap a six-run second inning and Chad Billingsley pitched the Los Angeles Dodgers past the Seattle Mariners 8-2 on Sunday.

Shut down by six pitchers in Seattle's third no-hitter Friday night, the Dodgers rebounded to win the final two games of the interleague series.

Billingsley (4-4) won his second straight decision, giving up two hits and a solo homer to Kyle Seager in seven strong innings. The right-hander struck out eight and walked three, the third time in four starts that he has struck out eight.



AP

Los Angeles Dodgers outfielders Alex Castellanos (49), Tony Gwynn (10) and Andre Ethier (16) leap together as they leave the field after defeating the Seattle Mariners in a baseball game on Sunday, June 10, 2012, in Seattle.

Yankees 5, Mets 4

In New York, Russell Martin led off the bottom of the ninth inning with his second homer of the game and the New York Yankees took advantage of some shoddy infield defense to beat the struggling Mets for a three-game sweep.

The Mets could not hold an early 3-0 lead, but tied it 4-all in the top of the ninth on Ike Davis' RBI double off Rafael Soriano.

Nationals 4, Red Sox 3

In Boston, Roger Bernadina doubled with two outs in the ninth inning, driving in Bryce Harper for the go-ahead run, and Washington held off slumping Boston to finish a three-game sweep.

Danny Espinosa doubled twice and drove in two runs for the Nationals, a franchise that had never won at Fenway Park coming into the series.

Rays 4, Marlins 2

In Miami, James Shields allowed one run in 6 1-3 innings to win for the first time in five starts and Tampa Bay capped a three-game sweep by beating Miami.

The Rays outscored their intrastate rivals 22-7 and have won seven in a row against the Marlins. Miami fell to 0-6 on its homestand and has been outscored 43-10.

Blue Jays 12, Braves 4

In Atlanta, Brett Lawrie and Colby Rasmus each homered and drove in three runs as Toronto rallied from an early four-run deficit to defeat Atlanta.

The Braves' six-game winning streak ended even though they led 4-0 after three innings. Blue Jays left-hander Ricky Romero lasted only four innings.

Orioles 5, Phillies 4, 10 innings

In Baltimore, Matt Wieters doubled home the winning run in the bottom of the 10th inning and Baltimore beat Philadelphia to extend its run of successive extra-inning victories to nine.

Steve Tolleson hit a three-run homer for the Orioles, who bounced back from a 4-1 deficit to keep Phillies starter Cliff Lee winless this season.

Pirates 3, Royals 2

In Pittsburgh, Andrew McCutchen homered and drove in three runs, A.J. Burnett won his fifth consecutive start and Pittsburgh finished its first sweep of an AL team in more than a decade by beating Kansas City.

McCutchen hit an RBI double in the first inning and a two-run homer in the third, giving Burnett (6-2) and three relievers enough support for the Pirates to win their fourth in a row.

Cubs 8, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Ryan Dempster pitched eight shutout innings to lead Chicago past Minnesota.

After an 18-start winless streak dating back to Aug. 11, Dempster (2-3) won his second game this week, another gem for a Cubs team that had the worst record in the majors. He scattered four singles and struck out six, including Joe Mauer three times, to help Chicago win for the fifth time in 25 games.

Rangers 5, Giants 0

In San Francisco, Alexi Ogando pitched three perfect innings to lead Texas past San Francisco.

The AL West-leading Rangers tagged Tim Lincecum (2-7). The two-time NL Cy Young winner is 0-5 in his last eight starts and has a 6.00 ERA this season.

Angels 10, Rockies 8

In Denver, Mark Trumbo hit a pair of three-run homers to set a career high with six RBIs and the Los Angeles Angels beat slumping Colorado for their ninth straight victory on the road.

Torii Hunter added a two-run homer and scored three times to help Los Angeles complete a three-game sweep.

Indians 4, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Jason Kipnis hit a tie-breaking three-run homer off closer Jason Motte in the ninth inning as Cleveland beat St. Louis.

Carlos Beltran homered for the second straight day to increase his NL-leading total to 18, and Joe Kelly allowed one run in five-plus innings in his major league debut for the Cardinals.

Astros 11, White Sox 9

In Chicago, Justin Maxwell, Jose Altuve, J.D. Martinez and Brett Wallace all homered to lead Houston past the Chicago White Sox.

Maxwell's two-run shot was estimated at 461 feet, curling just inside the left-field foul pole into the second deck. Altuve drove in three runs and stole home on the back end of a double steal.

Diamondbacks 4, Athletics 3

In Phoenix, Joe Saunders held Oakland to one earned run over six innings and Arizona extended their winning streak to a season-long five games.

Chris Young singled twice and scored both times as Arizona completed a three-game interleague sweep of the A's. The Diamondbacks have won seven of eight to climb to .500 for the first time since they were 14-14 on May 5.

Tigers 7, Reds 6

In Cincinnati, Austin Jackson hit a two-run double off Aroldis Chapman during Detroit's four-run eighth inning and the Tigers rallied for a 7-6 victory over Cincinnati.

Chapman (4-2) entered with two on in the eighth and the Reds leading 6-3. He gave up a single to pinch-hitter Brennan Boesch that loaded the bases and hit Matt Young with a pitch, forcing in a run.

Brewers 6, Padres 5

In Milwaukee Ryan Braun homered and Yovani Gallardo pitched seven innings to help the Milwaukee Brewers beat San Diego.

Gallardo (5-5) gave up five hits and one earned run in seven innings. Anthony Bass (2-6) gave up four runs, five hits and three walks in 5 2-3 innings.

Rain stops Nadal, Djokovic in French Open final

PARIS (AP)—His big lead over Novak Djokovic in Sunday's drenched French Open final slipping away, Rafael Nadal tossed a soaked, clay-smeared tennis ball toward the chair umpire.

A drizzle was now a downpour, making the balls heavy, the clay court slippery and changing the complexion of a match with so much at stake: Djokovic's bid to become the first man in 43 years to win four consecutive Grand Slam titles, and Nadal's attempt to become the first man to win seven titles at the tournament.

Moments later, play was suspended with the No. 2-seeded Nadal trying to protect a 6-4, 6-3, 2-6, 1-2 lead over a surging Djokovic, who's seeded No. 1. A tarp was pulled over the court, and after another hour or so, the decision was made to stop for the day and resume Monday.

Yes, this French Open already has made history, but not for a reason that was expected: It's the first time since 1973 that the tournament at Roland Garros didn't conclude on a Sunday.

This sort of thing is becoming a regular occurrence at tennis' top tournaments: The U.S. Open men's final has been postponed from Sunday to Monday each of the past four years because of rain. Unlike at Wimbledon and the Australian Open, neither the French Open nor U.S. Open has an indoor court available for tournament play; there is a plan to have a retractable roof in Paris five years from now.

Nadal and Djokovic were scheduled to resume at 1 p.m. local time (7 a.m. EDT) on Monday, when the forecast calls for intermittent rain. NBC, which aired Sunday's action, said Monday's U.S. TV coverage will shift to NBC Sports Network, a cable channel in about 35 million fewer homes than the broadcast network.

Toni Nadal, Rafael's uncle and coach, said he thought action should have been suspended earlier Sunday because "he court was too wet."

After the Nadals left the premises for the evening, Djokovic followed, pausing to chat with Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol in the players' lounge. Not surprisingly, Djokovic's mood was considerably better than it was during the second set, when he was unable to counter Nadal's clay-court brilliance.

Already down a set and serving at 3-3, 30-15 in the second, Djokovic sailed two forehands long to hand a break point to Nadal, who converted by ending an 18-shot exchange with a forehand winner down the line. Djokovic lowered his head, shook it, and slapped his thigh. Arriving at the changeover, he cranked his racket and whacked his green sideline bench, sending a chunk of the furniture flying; a ballkid ran out on court to gather the debris. The impact was as loud as a metal door slamming shut, and spectators jeered and whistled, a derisive reaction that grew louder when Djokovic walked back out on court for the next game.

A game later, with Nadal ahead 5-3, the match's first rain delay arrived. When play resumed about 35 minutes later - with a fully intact replacement bench for Djokovic - Nadal quickly wrapped up the second set by breaking with a full-sprint, cross-court backhand passing winner, then charged to a 2-0 lead in the third.

That made Nadal 20 for 20 in sets over the tournament's two weeks, and the title appeared near. But Djokovic is not the type to go quietly. This is a guy, don't forget, who saved two match points against 16-time major champion Roger Federer in last year's U.S. Open semifinals, then saved four more against Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the quarterfinals in Paris.

So right when all seemed lost for him, Djokovic grabbed the momentum and wouldn't let go. He began hitting out more, trying to end points quickly, and it worked. For 50 rub-your-eyes minutes that were sublime for Djokovic and ridiculous for Nadal, the Serb took eight consecutive games to collect the third set and open the fourth 2-0.

Clearly, Djokovic dealt much better with the conditions - consistent, heavy rain that left both men using their rackets to knock caked clay from the soles of their shoes. Sliding on the court was tougher. Nadal couldn't apply his usual heavy topspin on shots. Normally unflappable, particularly at his favorite tournament, the Spaniard began to gesture and mutter between points.

Finally, Nadal put a stop to Djokovic's run by holding serve to win a game that made it 2-1 in the fourth set. That's when the second delay began, after 3 hours of playing time. They did not return to the court; when the postponement was announced to the remaining fans in the stands, some responded with boos.

Tournament referee Stefan Fransson said Djokovic told him the court was slippery, and Nadal was "not happy" while pointing out his complaints about the balls.

Nadal and Djokovic will return Monday, surely hoping they're not subjected to what happened 39 years ago, the last time the French Open stretched beyond Sunday: Ilie Nastase's victory over Nikki Pilic in the 1973 final ended on Tuesday.

Johnson wins Memphis in 2nd event back from injury

ST. JUDE CLASSIC

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—For a man who couldn't swing a golf club for six weeks, Dustin Johnson sure knows how to return to winning form quickly.

Johnson won the St. Jude Classic on Sunday in his second event after a back injury cost him nearly three months away from the PGA Tour, shooting a 4-under 66 that held off John Merrick by a stroke.

"Well, it feels really good, especially having so much time off," Johnson said.

Johnson pulled a muscle in his lower right back in early March lifting a jet ski at his home, and rest was the biggest part of his prescription for healing. He didn't return to the tour until last week at the Memorial, where he tied for 19th.

He began the final round two strokes back and held a piece of the lead three different times. He won his sixth career title with consecutive birdies on Nos. 16 and 17 and finished 9-under 271. Johnson said he didn't look at the leaderboard, trying to stay focused on himself.

"And you know, I did that," Johnson said. "I had a lot of looks, lot of good looks and made a few putts coming down the stretch. Made great birdies at 16 and 17."

Johnson, who picked up the check for over $1 million, led by only a stroke going to No. 18. Rory McIlroy, Chad Campbell and Nick O'Hern, three of the four who had a chance to tie Johnson with a birdie, knocked their tee shots into the lake. Johnson said he thought he might have been tied and made sure he hit the fairway to at least give himself a chance at birdie. Par was good enough.

Now Johnson is the first player since Tiger Woods (1996-2000) to win in each of his first five seasons on tour after leaving college, which he said means a lot. His six career wins are the most of any of the tour players in their 20s.

"It means I'm playing good golf too," Johnson said. "I come out every week and I try to just put myself in position to have a chance to win on Sunday."

Johnson isn't concerned that no one has won on the PGA Tour and then won the U.S. Open the next week.

"I wasn't worried about the Open today," Johnson said with a smile. "I was worried about winning the FedEx. Next is a whole different week."

Merrick remains winless in 154 career tour starts. He shot a 69, recovering from a double bogey where he hit twice into water with a pair of birdies, and had a 272 total.

"The wheels were coming off the train. Hung in there and made a good putt for double," Merrick said. "Hung in there, proud of myself."

Davis Love III, the U.S. Ryder Cup captain, shot a 69 and tied for third with O'Hern (69), Campbell (68) and Ryan Palmer (66) at 273. McIlroy, who now heads to San Francisco and The Olympic Club to defend his U.S. Open title, had a 69 and tied three others at 274.

Tour officials pushed tee times up more than three hours and sent players off both tees in threesomes to avoid thunderstorms predicted for Sunday afternoon. With so many bunched closely together at the TPC Southwind course, that set up a rollercoaster final round with as many as eight players having a piece of the lead during the day.

Love, O'Hern and Merrick shared the lead overnight and had plenty of company before they teed off Sunday morning. McIlroy, Kevin Stadler and Campbell got quick birdies to join the group at 6 under, and Johnson made it a seven-way tie for the lead when he birdied his first hole.

McIlroy had a two-stroke lead all to himself after four birdies through 11 holes and appeared headed to the win. But he finished with two bogeys then his first double bogey in two trips to Memphis on No. 18 after hooking his 3-wood off the tee just a bit too much.

For a man who had missed three straight cuts coming to Memphis, McIlroy said he feels well prepared going into the U.S. Open after playing four straight rounds.

"Looking forward to getting to San Francisco, and I can take a lot from this week into next week," McIlroy said.

When O'Hern birdied Nos. 15 and 17, that set up a frenzied race to the finish with as many as four tied at 8 under in the final couple of holes.

Johnson carded four birdies and a bogey in the round. He took control with his consecutive birdies, rejoining the lead pack at 8 under when he rolled in an 11-footer on the par-5 16th. Johnson then moved to the top of the leaderboard by himself at 9 under by hitting his second shot from 161 yards to 9 feet on the par-4 No. 17 before sinking the birdie putt.

While Johnson waited, getting a play-by-play from analyst David Feherty, only O'Hern of Australia and Merrick had a chance to catch him, looking for their first career PGA titles. O'Hern hit his drive into the water, while Merrick hit his near the cart path and finished with his own par to match the best finish of his career.

Dustin Johnson poses with his trophy after winning the St. Jude Classic golf tournament Sunday, June 10, 2012, in Memphis, Tenn. Johnson won the tournament at 9 under par.

AP

NBA

As Heat return, Thunder get 1st taste of finals

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—When the Oklahoma City Thunder signed five-time champion Derek Fisher late in the season, they added a veteran guard with oodles more NBA finals experience than the rest of the roster he was joining.

Whether Fisher can prepare his Thunder teammates for what they're about to face is another matter.

While the Miami Heat are returning to the finals for the second straight season, it'll be an eye-opening, first-time experience for most of Oklahoma City's youthful players. Only Fisher, starting center Kendrick Perkins and backup Nazr Mohammed have ever made it this far—all winning titles with other teams.

But for all the leadership Fisher has provided since joining the Thunder in late March, he doesn't plan any lectures for the team's younger set that includes three-time scoring champion Kevin Durant and All-Star point guard Russell Westbrook.

"With my experience, I've found it better to on some level allow guys to experience things for themselves in its natural state," Fisher said. "You can't always tell someone what they should feel or what they should be thinking as they get ready to go into what may be the biggest moment of their life or their career.

"I think it's important to allow people to be who they are and experience it the way they naturally would."

The finals are sure to disrupt some parts of the Thunder's routine. Their practices will be uprooted from their brand new training facility on the north side of town and instead held downtown at Chesapeake Energy Arena, where the Heat will also work out. They'll be surrounded by hundreds of additional media members, and it's not uncommon for old friends and family to come out of the woodwork at what might not be the most opportune time.

"Those are things that you can control and basically block out. If they haven't called you in the past couple months, then don't take their call now," Fisher warned.

"It's better to ask for forgiveness than permission. Just politely don't answer or don't respond to the text. And then in a couple weeks, once you're done, you can reply back that you were busy. That's how you keep that part under control."

Not so easy for some to handle, Fisher said, are the heightened emotions that come with playing for a championship. It could be anxiety, tension or excitement. Some players might not be able to sleep.

"The bottom line is on the basketball court everybody feels comfortable," said coach Scott Brooks, a reserve on Houston's 1994 NBA championship team. "Everybody will have nerves, nervous butterflies, before the game. ... You're always nervous before the games until the tipoff. As a coach, I'm the same way. As a player, I was the same way. But that's part of it."

Brooks even considers the nerves to be good, a sign that players care.

"Once the tipoff is in the air, our players aren't going to get nervous," he said. "Once that ball is in the air and they're ready to play, they're going to fly around the court, they're going to be aggressive and they're going to play good basketball."

Westbrook said Sunday the fact that he's in the finals probably won't settle in until he's playing in Game 1 on Tuesday night at home.

"I'm kind of just going with the flow right now," Westbrook said.

Seeking redemption for last year's finals loss to Dallas, Miami's roster should be aware of what's to come. The lion's share of the team is back from last season, and Dwyane Wade and Udonis Haslem were both on the 2006 squad that won it all. LeBron James will be making his third finals appearance, including one with Cleveland.

"It's been a long 12 months. But obviously when you lose in the finals, it hurts," Wade said. "And you have to come into the season, you have to forget it. But you can't forget in a sense. So you play and you try to get back to this moment again, so you can in a sense redeem yourself or in a sense put yourself in that position again to succeed."

Perkins—who won the title with Boston in 2008—said he sensed growth in the Thunder's 20-somethings over the course of the season. He believes "guys knew what it takes to get where we needed to go."

There's only one step left to take.

"You can't hide the fact that we have a young team, but that's never been an excuse for us and we don't look at it as one," Brooks said. "Young is good. I wish I was younger."

Babauta wins Amigo May Ace

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

A pair of net 72s earned Lorraine Babauta the Amigo Golf Club's Ace of the Month honors for May.

The win only caused little surprise from her peers as Babauta was consistent with her game at the Marianas Country Club late last month. She grossed an 88 in the qualifying round earlier this month and duplicated the effort in the final with a 43 on the front nine and a 45 on the back, which calculated into a second 72 net tally after the handicap adjustment.

Babauta

Babauta's combined scores worked out to a 144 for a two-stroke win over John Guerrero.

She topped a field of 13 and secured a $100 cash prize, in addition to joining January Ace Joe Sablan, February's Doll Yamagashi, March's Ben Jones Sr., and April's Ben Jones Jr. for a bid into the season-ending Ace of Aces Tournament. Sablan won last year's Ace of Aces with Babauta incidentally taking runner-up honors.

Guerrero came into the final as the top qualifier with a net 71, but finished the day with a net 75, built around a 44 on the front side and a 42 after the turn for an 86 gross score and total of 146.

Dr. Larry Hocog, who qualified with a 72, settled for third place. He scratched a 45 on the way out and pulled in with a 48 for a 93 raw count that was shaved down to a 76 for a net total of 148.

Meanwhile, Amigo's June qualifier took place yesterday at the Kingfisher Golf Links. The final round will also be held at Kingfisher on June 24. The net scores in the two events will be combined to determine the monthly Ace.

There are 23 active AGC members and new players are always welcome.

Men and women compete against each another in a handicap-based net scoring system.

For more information, contact John Guerrero at 287-6352, vice president Joe Sablan at 322-1177, or treasurer Lorraine Babauta at 989-7732.

5 CNMI

From Page 28

World Junior Championships.

Then from Brisbane, Abrams will go to Barcelona, Spain and represent the CNMI in the 2012 IAFF World Junior Championships that will run from July 10 to 15 at the Olympic Stadium Lluís Companys de Montjuïc.

In Spain, the 17-year-old Marianas High School student will be racing in the 100m run. She is one of the 1,856 athletes entered in the six-day competition that drew a record number (186) of participating IAAF-member nations. The world junior championships in Beijing in 2006 held the previous record (176 nations), followed by the 1998 competition (170) in Annecy, France.

"Rachel will be busy this summer and the competitions and camp she will be joining will really help her improve," Rangamar said.

TEAM

From Page 28

Docomo absorbed its third loss in a row despite leading in the second and third quarters and having several chances to regain the upper hand and keep the win in the closing seconds of the fourth canto.

Down 66-67, Erwin Gomes had a chance to put Docomo back on top, but split his charities. Docomo grabbed the offensive board, but Jomer Enriquez missed a point-blank shot, while Team Pogi this time got the rebound with Renan Lansang finishing the play with an and-1 fastbreak layup.

Enriquez muffed another inside shot, but Docomo remained in contention when Lansang faltered on his free throws on the other end, while Resty Oson connected on his drive, 69-70, 26.3 seconds left on the clock.

Another Team Pogi miss returned possession to Docomo with Oson hanging on to the ball too long before deciding to pass it to Angel Bautista instead of going strong to the basket. The leather then slipped out of Bautista's hands and rolled out to the sideline in front of Docomo's bench.

Team Pogi was awarded possession in the last 10.5 seconds, did a good job eluding Docomo players who wanted to gave up quick fouls, and made an insurance basket with Tim Sula nailing an open layup off Jason Bahillo's assist.

Jeff Bahillo top-scored for Team Pogi with 21, while brothe Jason and Lansag added 12 apiece, and Sula chipped in 11. Gomes had 19 for Docomo.

Banahaw 62, KFC 59

In the second game, Banahaw Restaurant also eked out a close win over KFC/Taco Bell.

Banahaw improved to a 3-1 record to keep pace with Bracket B frontrunners the Fastbreakers (4-0). KFC also hold a 3-1 card, ending its three-game winning streak.

Julius Tabamo led Banahaw's victory as he scored 24 points, including 6 of the team's last 10 points. His, Joel Saplan, and Chris Lansang's baskets in the fourth quarter foiled KFC's repeated comeback bids. Saplan finished with 13, making 6 in the payoff canto, while Lansang had 8.

Herbert Maranan and Joon Lee nailed 13 and 12, respectively, for KFC, which played sans key player Ralph Francisco. Francisco, who averaged in double figures in their first three wins, was absent in their game against Banahaw due to a minor injury. KFC also missed the contribution of Jeff Durant, who was held to two points.

First Game

Team Pogi 72 – Je. Bahillo 21, Lansang 12, Ja. Bahillo 12, Sula 11, Chan 8, R. Aranda 4, Raquero 2.

Docomo 69 – Gomes 19, Oson 17, Achas 17, Bautista 8, Enriquez 4, Sanciangco 4.

Scoring by quarters: 20-15, 34-32, 47-53, 71-69.

Second Game

Banahaw Restaurant 62 – Tabamo 24, Saplan 13, Zapata 9, Lansang 8, Pacson 4, Master 2, Tonon 2.

KFC 59 – Maranan 13, Lee 12, Salas 9, Deleon Guerrero 9, Mendiola 5, Tinio 4, Durant 4, Tumbaga 2, Sevilla 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-9, 29-22, 46-44, 62-59.

OLD

From Page 28

judges' scorecards were announced. He pounded Timothy Bradley early, landed more punches and looked a lot like the fighter who catapulted to fame on a remarkable undefeated run over the last seven years.

That he's a former champion now is thanks to some judging that was questionable, if not borderline incompetent. But boxing has always been a subjective sport, and anything shy of a knockout is always open to interpretation by the three judges who sit ringside and score things round by round.

Pacquiao understands that as well as anyone, which may account for his smiles and calm demeanor afterward. In his last fight with Juan Manuel Marquez, he was lucky to escape with a majority decision that just as easily could have gone to his Mexican challenger, and he's been the beneficiary of other close decisions, too.

He was never close to knocking out Bradley; he was never able to knock him down. He coasted some in the late rounds, and left his fate in the hands of other people—something every fighter is cautioned never to do.

It's a mistake he vows not to repeat if the two meet as expected Nov. 10, in a rematch both say they want.

"That will make me become a warrior in the next few months," Pacquiao said, "because in the rematch my feeling is I don't want to go the whole 12 rounds."

The end of Pacquiao's 15-fight winning streak was even more startling because most near ringside didn't see it coming. Almost without exception every writer had Pacquiao well ahead, while HBO's resident unofficial judge Harold Lederman had him winning 11 rounds out of 12. The Associated Press scored it 117-111 for Pacquiao.

Punching stats compiled by Compubox showed Pacquiao landing 253 punches to 159 for Bradley, and landing more punches in 10 of the 12 rounds. But boxing statistics are subjective, too, compiled by two people counting the punches they believe land in a fight - and this one got so wild at times it was hard to tell who was hitting whom.

Still, when the split decision was announced and judges Duane Ford and C.J. Ross had Bradley winning 115-113, the pro-Pacquiao crowd booed loudly, and 81-year-old promoter Bob Arum nearly went apoplectic.

"This isn't about a close decision," said Arum, forgetting for a moment that he promotes both fighters. "This is absurd and ridiculous and everyone involved in boxing should be ashamed."

It didn't take long for radio talk shows and people commenting online to take up the theme. As usual, they said they would never watch another fight and, as usual, claimed the fight had to be fixed.

It wasn't, of course, because boxing in Nevada is heavily regulated and there has never been any indication judges could be bought off for a big fight. If they got it wrong—and there were some who said they didn't—they got it wrong simply because they liked what they saw when Bradley switched styles midway through the fight and started boxing Pacquiao instead of brawling with him.

Indeed, almost overlooked in the uproar was that Bradley fought smart and he fought gritty. He never gave up despite badly injuring both feet in the early rounds, and he took the best Pacquiao had and kept going after him. Bradley didn't have the power to keep Pacquiao off him, but he had ring intelligence and determination—and he displayed both all the way to the final bell.

"There's three judges out there. What do you want me to do?" Bradley asked. "Two of them felt I won the fight. That's all that counts."

Bradley, who came to the postfight press conference in a wheelchair, said he hurt his left foot in the second round, and told trainer Joel Diaz in the corner after the round that he thought it was broken.

"He said, `What do you want to do? You're in the fight of your life. Do you want to quit?'" Bradley said. "I said, `No.'"

Bradley's manager, Cameron Dunkin, said Sunday that the fighter tore ligaments in his left foot and will have an MRI on Monday to see if any bones are fractured. He said Bradley also sprained his right ankle in the fifth round, and it was badly swollen.

"It's incredible that he fought through it," the manager said.

Dunkin said Bradley knows his win was controversial and is determined to prove critics wrong in the rematch.

"He was letting it get to him. Now he realizes the judges do their job and he should just enjoy it," he said. "Did Pacquiao ever apologize to Marquez for any of his results? No."

While the fight set up what will be a lucrative rematch for both fighters, it may also quiet talk about a fight between Pacquiao and Mayweather that now seems destined never to happen. With Mayweather currently serving a three-month sentence in the Clark County Detention center—where the Pacquiao fight was not shown—and Pacquiao gearing up for a rematch with Bradley, there are even more obstacles to the megafight than before.

In the Philippines, meanwhile, fans took the loss harder than Pacquiao himself. They booed and yelled "Manny was cheated" after watching the fight in public parks and gyms throughout the country. Some even burst into tears in disbelief that their hero—who is also a Filipino congressman—could lose.

"He's a national and a world hero," said librarian Gina Tubo. "He inspires people and entertains them away from their troubles, so this is really shocking to all of us and I wept because he didn't lose."

He did lose, though, because the judges said he lost. That happens in boxing, and now Pacquiao no longer has the welterweight title he brought into the ring.

The sport can be filled with heartache, but it's made Pacquiao rich and famous, and an icon in his country. Maybe that was why he wasn't the one doing the screaming after his loss.

"That's how we love this boxing," Pacquiao said. "In your heart you know I was winning the fight. But it's OK. It's part of the game."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	35	25	.583	–
New York	34	25	.576	1/2
Baltimore	34	26	.567	1
Toronto	31	29	.517	4
Boston	29	31	.483	6

Central Division

Chicago	33	27	.550	–
Cleveland	32	27	.542	1/2
Detroit	28	32	.467	5
Kansas City	24	34	.414	8
Minnesota	24	35	.407	8 1/2

West Division

Texas	35	26	.574	–
Los Angeles	32	29	.525	3
Seattle	27	35	.435	8 1/2
Oakland	26	35	.426	9

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	35	23	.603	–
Atlanta	34	26	.567	2
New York	32	29	.525	4 1/2
Miami	31	29	.517	5
Philadelphia	29	33	.468	8

Central Division

Cincinnati	32	27	.542	–
Pittsburgh	32	27	.542	–
St. Louis	31	30	.508	2
Milwaukee	28	32	.467	4 1/2
Houston	26	34	.433	6 1/2
Chicago	20	40	.333	12 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	39	22	.639	–
San Francisco	34	27	.557	5
Arizona	30	30	.500	8 1/2
Colorado	24	35	.407	14
San Diego	20	41	.328	19

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AFC

From Page 28

pan was going to use. All of our players are beginners, so it was a huge disadvantage for us to play our first match against a team that is very skilled. After the first goal, the team lost its confidence and mental fatigue began to set in," Tang said through an email assistant coach Patricia Coleman sent to *Saipan Tribune*.

After the loss to Japan, the CNMI regrouped and this time played better defense.

"The girls played well against North Korea. They followed the game plan and they were able to focus more on my instructions. At the end of the first half, the score was only 0-5.

The positioning and defending improved greatly compared to our first match. Our goalkeeper, Carla, had the best performance since I first saw her train on Saipan," Tang said.

The Commonwealth strikers continued to play tough defense in the third game yesterday and hit their target—limit Chinese-Taipei's goals to single digit.

"If we can keep the score in the single digit against Taipei, this will be a huge accomplishment for our team," said Tang before yesterday's game.

"Our girls continue to fight hard every game and for that we should all be proud," Tang also said during an interview with the Chinese media.

After playing for three straight days, the CNMI strikers will have an off today and will return to the pitch tomorrow to face the host China. Then Tang and company will complete the six-country tournament against South Korea on Thursday.

The AFC event in China is a first for the members of the CNMI U13 Team and Tang said the tournament will be very helpful for the young Commonwealth strikers.

"This competition is a lesson. They must learn from the competitors. Overall, the technique of the team has improved, but it lacks competition experience. Getting experience takes time," Tang said.

11th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

A Flight winner Steve Jang, seated third left, poses with friends for a group photo during the 11th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic awards banquet held last June 2 at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom.

HANMI chair Nick Nishikawa, left, poses for a group photo with some colleagues before checking the buffet line.

Some local veteran players pose for a group shot during a break in the raffle drawing.

B Flight's Jhun Calma accepts his $150 cash prize for taking closest to pin the pin honors on Marianas Country Club's hole No. 8.

Leina Kim graciously accepts third prize in the Ladies Flight despite turning a field low of 70 in the tournament.

From left, B Flight's Young Kee Hong stands with runner-up Kyuyeon Kim and Carl Hocog, right, after accepting their prizes from Hafadai Beach Hotel's Akira Takeaokea.

A Flight winner Steve Jang, center, is flanked by presenter Jong Tae Tark of Saipan World Resort and third place finisher Ralph Yumul.

From second left, C Flight winner Luther Taylor stands with runner-up Jack Salas and third placer Lucy Park after accepting their prize packages from Marianas Resort/Marianas Country Club's Gloria Cavanage.

A little boy reaches into the raffle box and draws the next winning ticket during the banquet.

MISO high school champ Soon Hyung Kwon, second left, enjoys dinner with some family members.

Johnson wins Memphis in 2nd event back from injury

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Dodgers take series from Mariners with 8-2 victory

PAGE 24

5 CNMI athletes off to Oceania track tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI will be sending five athletes to the Oceania Regional Championships 2012 that will be held at Barlow Park in Cairns, Australia later this month.

Leading the list is 2011 Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMASA Female Student Athlete of the Month Rachel Abrams. Joining the sprinter in the June 27 to 29 tournament are Reylynn Sapong, Beo Ngirchongor, Michael Mancao, and Orrin Pharmin.

Abrams, Ngirchongor, and Pharmin will be competing in sprint events, while Mancao is entered in the 400m and 800m runs. Sapong will also race in the 800m event and the 1,500m run.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Beo Ngirchonor, Reylynn Sapong, and Rachel Abrams warm up during a practice session at the Oleai Sports Complex yesterday. The three along with Michael Mancao and Orrin Pharmin will represent the CNMI in the Oceania Regional Championships 2012 in Cairns, Australia later this month.

"Competing in the Oceania tournament against the best in the region is a great opportunity for our athletes. It will help them gauge their performance against athletes from Oceania. I hope they will represent the CNMI well," said coach Elias Rangamar in a short interview with *Saipan Tribune* during a break in the team's training session.

The five CNMI athletes have been preparing for the Oceania competition for months and on June 22 they will go to Guam with other Commonwealth bets for a tune-up tournament.

"We're hoping to bring about 15 athletes in a goodwill tournament in Guam," Rangamar said.

Meanwhile, Abrams will stay in Australia after the Oceania competition, as she is invited to attend a two-week camp in Brisbane, joining athletes who will participate in the 2012 IAFF

See 5 CNMI on Page 26

Team Pogi's Renan Lansang goes up for a floater for an and-1 play against two Docomo defenders during their game in the DLX/DL JOS caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Team Pogi survives Docomo for third win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Team Pogi clinched its third win in the 2012 DLX/DL JOS Inter-Color Basketball League after thwarting Docomo, 72-69, last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Team Pogi is now tied for second place with DLX/Irish Spring (3-1), just close behind Bracket A leader Mawati (2-0). Docomo remained at the bottom of the team standings with its dismal 0-3 slate.

See TEAM on Page 26

CNMI shows improvement in AFC event

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Girls U13 Team is showing progress after each game in the AFC U13 Girls Football Tournament being played in Nanjing, China.

The squad, which is composed of Carla Mae Ballesteros, Guinevere Borja, Maile Aldrich, Britany Wally, Mary Kay Alferos, Patricia Santiago, Jesreelyn Bulaklak, Angelica and Lyka Sally, Bernadette Horey, Angelina Villagomez, Diana Maniacop, Samantha Manacop, Jasmine Phan, De'Jana Muna, Yna Poquiz, Renita Fleming, Chevy Alipio, Krizel Tuazon, and Chloe Salvosa, so far had challenged three teams, debuting against powerhouse Japan last Saturday, facing North Korea last Sunday, and dueling Chinese-Taipei yesterday.

Against Japan, the CNMI strikers lost, 0-25. In their second game, the Commonwealth bets bowed anew, but limited North Korea to only 11 goals. Then against Chinese-Taipei, coach Jimmy Tang's wards held their foes scoreless in the first half before losing, 0-2.

"I am not surprised with the result of our match against Japan, which is a very strong team. We went into the match not knowing the formation Ja-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the CNMI Team (in blue uniforms) join Chinese-Taipei players in the parade of squads before the start of their game in the AFC U13 Girls Football Tournament yesterday in Nanjing, China.

Old story in boxing, Pacquiao loss hits home

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The outcry in this gambling city was so loud Floyd Mayweather Jr. could have heard it in his jail cell. On the other side of the world, people cried in the streets in Manila, and the presidential palace issued a statement praying for the quick return of their hero's strength and fervor.

Through it all, Manny Pacquiao was a model of serenity.

"I hope you're not dismayed or discouraged," Pacquiao said. "I can fight. I can still fight."

That much was evident Saturday night in a fight Pacquiao seemed to have under control up until the time the

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TIM DAHLBERG
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